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Driver of Matrix in 3-car crash is found at fault. » PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

Welcome home, Gov. Inos

Pallbearers from the Department of Public Safety lead government officials and family members toward a waiting hearse soon after the casket carrying the remains of the late governor Eloy S. Inos was offloaded from a Delta Air Lines plane last Friday afternoon at the Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport.

DENNIS B. CHAN

See more photos on Pages 18, 19, 20, 21

By DENNIS B. CHAN and DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTERS

The late governor Eloy S. Inos arrived home last Friday afternoon to a somber welcome led by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, government leaders, off-island dignitaries, and relatives at the tarmac of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

After, his remains were carried by hearse and accompanied by a miles-long motorcade from the airport to the Borja Funeral Homes in Oleai, where they will remain until Inos' funeral tomorrow, Tuesday.

Inos, who died in a Seattle hospital last Dec. 29 (CNMI time) at the age of 66 due to complications from diabetes, flew in on a Delta Air Lines flight.

On Friday, members of the CNMI Judiciary arrived at the airport aboard a bus at 2pm. Within half an hour, buses carrying the rest of government officials and Cabinet member arrived.

When the Delta flight was spotted in the sky coming in south of the airport, officials—wearing mostly black or formal white tops with black ties—surged to the edges of the designated waiting area set off by airport officials to look on.

See INOS on Page 4

CUC, 18 workers add claim vs USCIS

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and 18 of its foreign workers have added a claim in their lawsuit against Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Charles Johnson and other federal officials over the delayed renewal of their Commonwealth-only worker permits, commonly known as CW-1.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Thursday also ordered that the court will advance the trial on the merits and consolidate it with the hearing on CUC's and the 18 workers' motion for a preliminary injunction on Jan. 21 at 9am. Manglona issued the

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INSIDE

LOCAL

Joseph Raymond Dela Cruz Cabrera wins a brand new 2016 Kia Soul.

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LOCAL

Biologists tag their first Mariana crow at the start of the breeding season.

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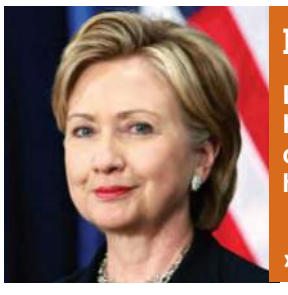

LOCAL

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan endorses Hillary Rodham Clinton.

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Local

Cabrera is the proud owner of a new Kia Soul

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Joseph Raymond Dela Cruz Cabrera had a late holiday gift from Santa in the form of a brand new 2016 Kia Soul after winning in the redrawing of the grand prize of the P&G Great Car Giveaway promo.

The grand prize was redrawn after the first winner, Xu Hua Ting, was found ineligible since his wife is an employee of the store where the winning raffle ticket was drawn.

The re-raffle was held at the D&Q office in Lower Base last week with Cabrera's ticket picked to win the 2016 subcompact crossover SUV.

Cabrera got his car last Friday from D&Q officials led by resident manager Max Kretzers, sales and marketing coordinator Jaki Fujihara, and assistant sales manager and P&G product manager Abby Inabo-Pangelinan and Joeten Motors general manager Matt Deets.

The 55-year-old San Vicente resident said he was surprised when he received a call from D&Q officials that he was the winner of the car.

"I thought that somebody had already won the car because the promo ended in December. I have no idea and was wondering who won because it is already January. That's why I was surprised when they called and told me that I was the winner," said Cabrera.

He chose a two-tone red-white Kia Soul that will replace his second generation Nissan Pathfinder.

A total of $35,000 worth of prizes were given away during the duration of the promo where every purchase of $20 worth of P&G products entitled one to a raffle entry.

Roderick Capili, Merlinda Naputi and Georgia Salas each won an iPad mini; Relito L. Delos Reyes ($1,000), Lina Rose A. Lifoifoi ($750), and Sonia V. Laserna ($500) each received Joeten gift certificates.

Serlin Marlik and Margie Camu both won a brand new generator. Angelo Lastimado had a brand new washer, while Frances V. Muna went home with a brand new 42' LG flat screen television.

JON PEREZ

D&Q assistant manager and P&G product manager Abby Inabo-Pangelinan, third left, hands over the key of a brand new Kia Soul to Joseph Raymond Dela Cruz Cabrera, who won the grand prize of the P&G Great Car Giveaway promo. Others in photo are Joeten Motors general manager Matt Deets, D&Q resident manager Max Kretzers, and sales and marketing coordinator Jaki Fujihara.

OAG's motion to add charge vs ex-Rota mayor denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has denied the government's motion to add a charge of possession or removal of government property against former Rota mayor Melchor A Mendiola and four other former Rota municipal employees.

In an order on Friday, Camacho also ruled that the trial of Mendiola and co-defendants Stacey Atalig, Tina Atalig, Alfred Apatang, and Bernard Apatang will proceed on Rota on Jan. 25, 2016.

Camacho said that adding another offense that would require a different defense strategy so close to trial prejudices the defendants.

"The jury trial is two weeks away, and it would be unreal-

See OAG on Page 4

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Camacho, a pioneer of the CNMI, is laid to rest

One of the founding fathers of the Commonwealth Covenant will be laid to rest today after decades of contributions as a public servant.

The late Vicente T. Camacho was one of the pioneers of the CNMI government who displayed unrelenting qualities of a great leader, while exemplifying patience, kindness and putting his community first in his endeavors, earning him much respect in the community.

Camacho was speaker of the Municipal Legislature from 1970 to 1975 and during a time of rapid societal change, he served as acting mayor of Saipan, improving the livelihood of the people of Saipan.

He solidified his political career as a member of the Marianas Political Status Commission from 1972 to 1976.

When the Covenant was ratified on Feb. 15, 1975—with additional work of the Personal Representative of the President of the United States, Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, together with the Marianas Political Status Commission consisting of Edward DLG. Pangelinan, chairman, and Vicente N. Santos as vice chairman, and its members (the late Juan LG. Cabrera, the late Vicente T. Camacho, the late Jose R. Cruz, the late Bernard V. Hofschneider, the late Benjamin T. Manglona, the late Daniel T. Muña, the late Dr. Francisco T. Palacios, the late Joaquin I. Pangelinan, Manuel A. Sablan, the late Joannes B. Taimanao, and Pedro A. Tenorio), he helped defined the political and social course of the CNMI.

The Covenant, which sought to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States, defines the unique relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States, recognizing U.S. sovereignty but limited, in some respects.

Camacho also played a major part in the establishment of the Marianas Visitors Bureau, which is now the Marianas Visitors Authority. His fluency in the Japanese language played a key role in the development of the Japanese market.

His work included spearheading the Japan and Northern Marianas friendship through the Ocean University Student Exchange, better known as the Wakai Neko Nekai, where students of Japan and Saipan participated in cultural sharing and fellowship.

Vicente T. Camacho signing Covenant, Feb. 15, 1975. (N-2473.12).

Vicente T. Camacho signing Covenant, Feb. 15, 1975. (N-2473.12).

His advocacy for tourist safety resulted in the development of fences, ladders, and concrete structures at popular tourist sites.

He later ventured into business with Marianas Printing Services, serving as its vice president and manager until 1985.

With his daughters Lillian and Julie, he later opened a family business in 1998, known as Bencam Enterprises, serving as president until 2014 offering funeral services, wedding, and flower arrangement and apartment rentals.

Camacho was born on Saipan on April 5, 1929, living a full 86 years of life and marriage to his wife Rita Reyes Duenas and the blessing of three children. Today he lays to rest, as the CNMI charts its course through political changes and hopeful empowerment, leaving behind his legacy of fulfillment as a leader, a husband, and a father. ***(Daisy Demapan)***

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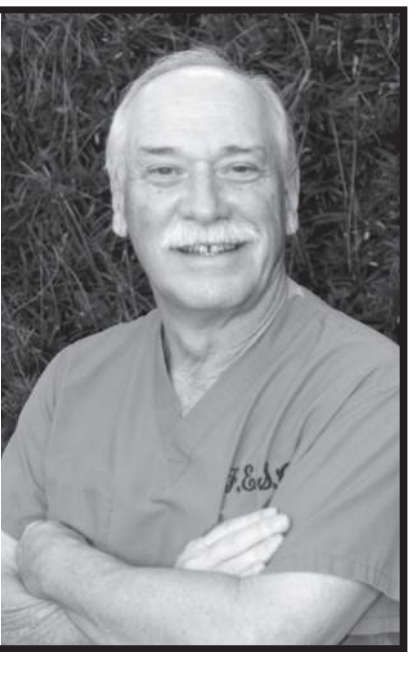

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House leadership turnover today

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives is expected to elect a new speaker today, fulfilling a verbal compromise brokered by current speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Spn) and vice speaker Ralph Demapan (R-Spn) to share the speaker's seat and gavel.

If the gentleman's agreement is followed through on—which broke the impasse between candidates vying for the position last year—Demapan will be the new speaker for the remaining 12 months of the 19th Legislature.

It's wait-and-see if the contentious House minority bloc will try to contest the leadership switch. It appears they currently do not have the numbers to do so. Some consider the speaker spot as a lame-duck seat, as lawmakers will soon turn their eye to seats in the upcoming 20th Legislature, with mid-term elections later this year and aggressive campaigning expected to begin soon.

Deleon Guerrero won the speakership on a vote of 11-9 with the support of Demapan and his six NMI Republican Party mates against Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb.

The same 11 votes are expected to play a factor in the turnover for speakership. They are Reps. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Edwin Aldan (Ind-Saipan), Francis S. Taimanao (Ind-Saipan), Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan), George Camacho (R-Saipan), Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), Joseph "Leepan" T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan), Glenn L. Maratita (R-Saipan), and Deleon Guerrero.

The election of speaker and vice speaker will leads today's session, after public comments, according to a notice and agenda available on the House website.

Speaker Guerrero earlier said that many people felt that he should continue as speaker but that he would be keeping his word. "We wouldn't have had a leadership without that agreement taking place. I'm going to honor my part of the bargain, along with my [constituents]," he had said.

Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* he is looking forward to the speakership in order to guide the Legislature on issues affecting retirees, medical referral, and public lands. "Finding revenues to keep government programs well-funded is always a priority. …We have to stay focused on the retirement issue, the hospital, public safety, and education. I will continue to work with all the members of the House as well as the Senate to address issues affecting the Commonwealth and I thank them for their patience as we charter the course of the CNMI," he said.

With election year coming up, the needed votes for speakership and upcoming bills can still steer in different directions.

CUC

From Page 1

order following CUC counsel James Sirok's request for the court to clarify its order on Wednesday.

On Wednesday, Manglona denied the request of CUC and 18 of its affected foreign workers for a temporary restraining order that would allow these CW-1 workers to immediately return to work. She said, though, that CUC and its foreign workers may still pursue their claim for a permanent injunction.

On Thursday, Sirok filed the first amended complaint against the same defendants—Homeland Security Secretary Johnson, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Saarah Saldana, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Leon Rodriguez.

Sirok added a claim that plaintiffs are able to work after the expiration date of their respective permits so long as the authorizations remain valid in accordance with law.

Sirok said that when the CW-1 petitions for the foreign workers were approved, these workers acquired the status of CW-1 nonimmigrant CNMI only transitional worker for the period of time their approved petitions are valid.

Sirok said the approval of the petitions and the resulting authorized grant of CW-1 status to each of the workers is an authorization that allows each of them to enter and work in the CNMI.

Sirok said this means that the workers are authorized to enter the CNMI and work for CUC without the need or requirement of obtaining separate approvals for work authorization from USCIS.

The lawyer said a provision of the Immigration and Naturalization Act regulations provides that the plaintiff CW-1 workers may work during the validity period of their respective petitions.

He asserted that pursuant to Section 558 of the U.S. Administrative Procedure Act, these workers' CW-1 statuses do not expire until USCIS makes a determination on their respective CW-1 petitions for the renewal of their statuses.

In accordance with the provision of INA regulations, Sirok said the workers' statuses remain valid for a period of 10 days after the end of their respective petitions' validity period.

INOS

From Page 1

The plane landed at about 3:15pm. Two fire trucks on opposite sides of the runway shot cannons of water into the air, forming a glistening arc through which the plane passed on its way to the airport's apron.

As family and officials watched the plane, Torres, his wife Dianne, and other close Inos officials and family could be seen distraught, wiping away tears as they looked on at the Delta plane.

Inos' relatives were moved to the front of the crowd when the plane parked. Siblings were called from the designated area to join the family arriving with Inos on the plane.

At 3:20, the crowd watched Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, and other officials walk across the tarmac toward the parked Delta plane, to board the plane a few minutes later.

The mood was one of collective focus, quiet, and respectful.

Grim and resolute, law enforcement officials and a color guard saluted as Inos' remains were taken down from the plane.

Standing with them, a color guard carrying rifles and the U.S. and CNMI flags moved out from their colleagues to join the pall bearers and Inos' family.

This group would march across the grey airport tarmac to a backdrop of wide sky to deliver Inos' body into the hearse.

Torres and his wife led a massed line of family members and officials in following the pallbearers. Some family members dabbed napkins at their faces as they walked.

At 3:40pm, a bagpiper that joined the march began playing *Amazing Grace*, the hymn's haunting strain floating and lingering in the solemn and still afternoon air—a single note that never seemed to end.

Inos' remains were respectfully carried into the hearse by 3:44pm, and the end of the hearse closed.

"Today, I welcomed my mentor back home. It was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do," Torres said in a statement Friday. "Governor Inos truly loved everything about these islands in the same way he loved life itself. He treated everyone with kindness and respect and worked until his passing day to make a better Commonwealth so that our future generations are blessed with an opportunity to have a better life."

Outside the airport

It was a moment of mixed emotions as the community stood in solidarity for the solemn welcoming of the late governor on Friday.

Purple ribbons, flags, and photos in memoriam lined the roadside as several dignitaries and family made their way to Borja Funeral Home after a long awaited return since the governor's passing.

Many agencies were granted administrative leave to pay their respects to the beloved governor, who to many, passed too soon.

Employees of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Northern Marianas College, Public School System, BECQ, CERT, Joeten Enterprises, the Olomwaay Family Choir, and several others stood in silence as the convoy passed.

Many held up photos in remembrance while offering words of comfort to each other for the untimely passing of the island's leader and the heartfelt sorrow of the loss of a husband, father and grandfather. Passersby honked their horns in acknowledgement of the governor.

Dressed in black, individuals who had worked with Inos before he was governor said his loss is a great one to the small island community.

Speaking of the many contributions the late governor made to public education and other community needs, PSS associate commissioner of curriculum and instruction Jackie Quitugua shared that Inos was very passionate about investing in education.

"He was a strong advocate for education for a very long time and really believed that an educated community creates a strong workforce and helps economic development. That's one thing that really stood out about him. He's a very simple and humble man and we are saddened by his passing. With each person that passes on in life, there's no other. There's that unique individual. We will surely miss his leadership, his contributions and most importantly, his role as our governor," she said.

Vice principal Elisa Muña, a close friend of Inos' daughter, said, "On behalf of the school, we want to offer our condolences to the family of the late honorable Gov. Inos. We pray for and support them during this tough time. His daughter was a part of the Public School System and a fellow teacher at one point and a close friend of mine personally, so we'd like to support her and her family," she said.

Joeten Kiyu Public Library staff stood on the sidelines as the convoy made its way along Beach Road. Library director Erlinda Naputi said: "We want to offer our condolences to the family of the late Gov. Inos. I want to acknowledge all the hard work and dedication he put into the public library. He was very supportive of the library and we wanted to pay our respects by being out here today and on Tuesday… he helped us with additional [full time personnel] for the library and always knew that we were short-staffed and needed more help. He assisted in many ways but that was one of the most essential contributions he has made to the library. On behalf of Joeten Kiyu Public library and the Motheread/Fatheread program, we want to say *adios* and rest in peace."

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation director Arlene Yamagata noted the governor's advocacy for disability programs. "He was very supportive of our disability community. He was always there at activities and events, especially proclamations for different occasions like national disability employment awareness, development disabilities and autism. We pray for his family as they continue mourning. Our thoughts and prayers are with them."

As soon as the convoy reached the funeral home, police officials blocked public entry, at the expressed desire of the family for a private viewing.

A tribute and memorial service for the CNMI's first governor to pass in office will be held today, Monday, from 1pm to 3pm for visiting heads of state, CNMI government officials, Cabinet members, and administration staff at the Borja Funeral Home.

OAG

From Page 2

istic to expect the defendants to shift gears and adequately prepare for an additional charge this close to trial," the judge said.

Camacho said since this trial will be conducted on Rota, there are many considerations to take into account when deciding whether to continue a jury trial, especially since attorneys, witnesses, and court staff must fly down to Rota and secure accommodation for the duration of the trial.

Camacho has already blocked off two weeks on his calendar to accommodate the trial.

"Because this jurisdiction is remote and spread out across separate islands, conducting a jury trial outside of Saipan requires extra preparation, including flying marshals to Rota to serve jury summons," Camacho said.

The judge said since this is a high-profile case involving the former Rota mayor, additional preparations have already been undertaken.

Jury summons for the entire Rota jury pool were already issued. Marshals and probation officers made many trips to Rota to serve the jury summons.

Camacho said since one of the defendants is a former mayor, the departments of Public Safety and Corrections are both sending officers from Saipan to Rota to assist with crowd control and securing the Rota courthouse.

Postponing the trial would place a heavy logistical and financial burden on the court and the parties, he said.

The jury trial was initially set for Nov. 2, 2015, but the parties later agreed to move the trial to Jan. 25, 2016.

Mendiola, Alfred Apatang, Bernard Apatang, Stacey Atalig, and Tina Atalig are charged with theft.

According to the first amended information, Mendiola unlawfully took nine picnic tables belonging to the Rota Mayor's Office on and between September 2014 and Feb. 26, 2015 on Rota.

The former mayor voluntarily surrendered to the Department of Corrections last May 19 and was served with the arrest warrant. He posted $10,000 cash bail. He pleaded not guilty.

The first amended information also charged with theft Alfred Apatang, Bernard Apatang, Stacey Ann M. Atalig, and Tina M. Atalig.

Alfred Apatang is the former field supervisor of then-Mayor Mendiola. He allegedly stole one Toshiba Satellite laptop valued at $975 belonging to Rota Mayor's Office between September 2014 and Feb. 27, 2015 on Rota.

Bernard Apatang allegedly stole a Toshiba Satellite laptop worth $975 belonging to Rota Office of Finance between September 2014 and Feb. 27, 2015 on Rota.

Stacey Ann Atalig allegedly stole a Toshiba Tecra laptop valued at $2,049 belonging to Rota Office of Finance between September 2014 and March 2015 on Rota. She is a former Rota Finance resident director.

Tina Atalig allegedly stole a Toshiba Satellite laptop worth over $250 and less than $20,000 belonging to Rota Mayor's Office between September 2014 and Feb. 26, 2015 on Rota. She is former secretary of then-mayor Mendiola.

OPA-Task Force officer JB K. Cepeda stated in his report that they initiated the investigation after receiving a letter from Rota Mayor Efrain M. Atalig, requesting assistance to investigate into Mendiola's questionable transactions.

Cepeda said Mayor Atalig apparently discovered that government properties such as computer laptops, folding tables, typewriter, and other items were unaccounted for or missing.

Last July 28, Camacho acquitted former Rota Procurement officer Rowena Barcinas and her husband, retired police officer Andrew Barcinas, of all four charges in connection with the alleged stealing of a government's vehicle.

Rotary Club's Las Vegas Night was 'biggest ever'

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan sold out another round of 10,000 tickets this year, raising more than $40,000 for its community service projects through the 2015 Las Vegas Night on Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

Triple J. Enterprises' Felix Palacios, who was not present during the drawing, was the evening's biggest winner of the much-awaited raffle and will get to choose between the $10,000 grand prize or a brand new Mazda 3 car.

The rest of the top 5 winners included a no name ticket for $500, Patrick Fernandez who won $1,000, L. Camacho who won $2,000, and Rotarian past president Carl Reyes, who won the second prize worth $3,000.

All game tables were packed, as roulette and blackjack players tried their luck. Hundreds of bystanders, however, waited patiently for Lady Luck as 30 door prizes were called at the top of the hour.

This year, the players were able to use cash on the blackjack tables instead of chips due to a shortage and an increase in the number of blackjack tables as the club had done away with Texas Hold 'Em and focused their efforts on bingo and roulette as well.

The night also debuted a new guessing game, which Rotarian Steven Connor of the Marianas Stamp and Coin Club called a game of skill. Over 100 participants tried their luck while Eloy Cabrera took home the priceless collection of silver dollars and half dollars after guessing the closest dollar amount.

Bingo was packed, with not a seat vacant, as $500 jackpots rolled out through the evening.

Club treasurer Tom Thornburgh said that ticket sales were very successful.

"We really appreciate the community coming out and supporting Rotary," he said. "We appreciate them keeping with tradition and being a part of this event. To all the winners, congratulations."

President-elect Ivan Ilmov added, "People come to this event because they want to support good things. All money goes to charity. It's all for fundraising. That's why we give a huge thank you to the community for supporting us every year."

Rotary president Curtis Dancoe noticed that the crowd has become bigger, with more participants at the tables than before.

"This is our signature event. We had 17 tables of blackjack, which is the most we've had," he said, as more tables and a new game offered more opportunities for patrons to win.

For those who missed Texas Hold 'Em this time, Dancoe said, "We've attempted poker and we felt from best practices it was mediocre at best. We didn't have enough people to deal and manage the tables so we decided not to do it. … This year, we focused on roulette and blackjack but in the spring, we'll be having an exclusive Texas Hold 'Em championship tourney."

He said the club is also planning a couple more activities, including a goodwill golf tournament next month.

For everyone who came out this year, Dancoe said, "Thank you for your contributions and thank you for your support."

The event was sponsored by Micronesia Brokers, Inc., D&Q, Tasi Tours, Paradise Dental, Armatech, Bank of Guam, First Hawaiian Bank, McDonald's, IT&E, Docomo, Naked Fish, the Marianas Coin & Stamp Co., Best Sunshine International, Ltd. and DFS, with volunteers from Rotaract and Interact.

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Kia Cadenza Premium retail price $35,995 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $570.20 or $263.17 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $34,212.00.

Mariana crow fledgling tagged at start of the breeding season

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
tamanglona@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Biologists under the Rota Avian Behavioral Ecology Project made their first catch and band of a Mariana crow fledgling at the start of the new breeding season two weeks ago on Jan. 2.

According to research coordinator Dacia Wiitala and field crew leader Henry Fandel, the endangered bird is captured as chicks and banded with color-coded bands that resemble bracelets, which enable biologists to track and identify individual birds. Biologists survey known Marianas crow (*aga* in Chamorro) habitat for nests.

"Being able to tell individual birds apart helps us make survival estimates and understand crow movements across the island," Wiitala told *Saipan Tribune*. "The second portion of our research is a continuation of the Adult Mortality Study. This study is intended to help us understand some of the pressures affecting adult *aga* on Rota."

She explained that if pressures are identified, steps can be taken to reverse the striking decline of the crow population. Biologists also found that the feral cat population puts "unnatural pressures" on the population.

"For the adult mortality study we have radio-tagged 10 adult crows across the island. We check on the birds using telemetry gear twice a day to ensure they are still alive," she added.

LENA WARE

Biologists under the Rota Avian Behavioral Ecology Project make their first catch and band a Marianas crow at the start of the breeding season this year.

RABEP's last survey conducted in 2013 found 92 breeding Marianas crows. The group has also collected blood samples from over 100 crows that are currently being analyzed at the Smithsonian Wildlife Conservation Institute in Washington, D.C.

» Survey finds 92 breeding Marianas crows

RABEP no longer holds captive crows. Instead, the San Diego Zoo Global facility run by Phil Hannon and Sarah Faegre separately hold all the captive crows on the island. This fall, the facility will start a captive rear-and-release program of Mariana crows in an effort to help bolster the wild population as well.

RABEP began their efforts on island in 2005 and is contracted through the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources from a Section 6 Endangered Species grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

MA town looks at establishing sister city accord with Saipan

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A town in Massachusetts is looking into partnering with Saipan through the Sister Cities International.

According to the Saipan Mayor's Office, a school in Massachusetts has reached out to establish a sister city program.

"The students' exchange is becoming an awareness program. Massachusetts started communicating with us; they want to do the same thing with us here," Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said. "That's good because when kids travel abroad they learn about different countries, different cultures."

The Sister Cities International serves as a hub for institutional knowledge and best practices in the field of citizen diplomacy. A sister city, county, or state relationship is a broad-based, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries.

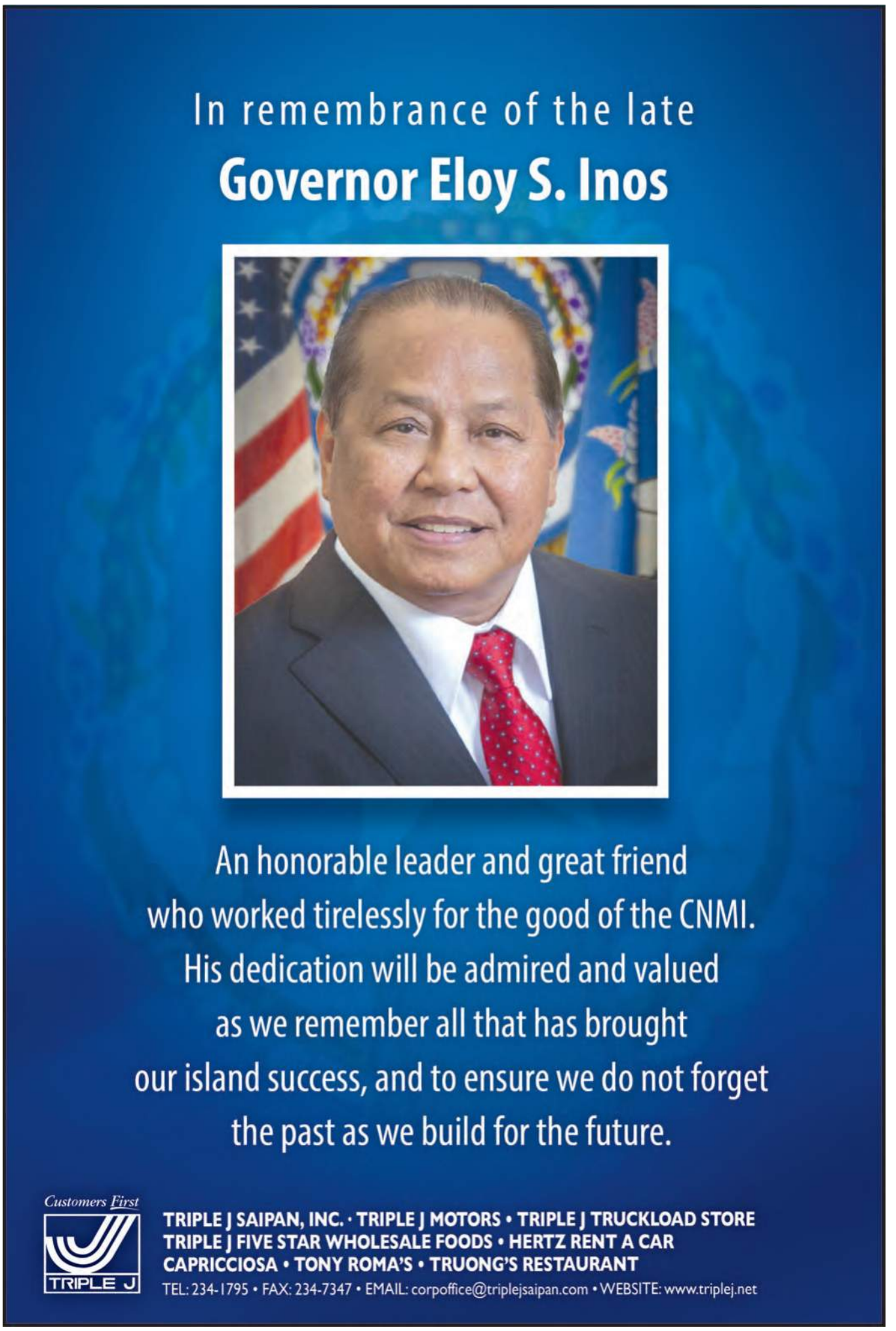
The sister city organizations promote peace through people-to-people relationship and has program offerings varying greatly from basic cultural exchange programs to shared research and development projects between cities with relationships.

Through an email, former Saipan resident and now Groton-Dunstable Regional High School's AP government teacher Jay Villagomez communicated to the mayor their interest to establish the program.

Villagomez said Saipan students may be able to have exchange programs with their school and the other way around, as well as have media and business exposure in the state.

Groton is a town in northwestern Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

According to special assistant Henry Hofschneider, the Mayor's Office will be working with either the municipal council or with the Saipan delegation to assist them in establishing the sister cities program.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Driver of Matrix in 3-car crash found at fault

The driver of the car that collided with a pickup truck, causing the truck to flip over and hit another vehicle near Sugar King Park in Garapan at noon on Thursday, was found at fault in the accident. Three of the pickup's passengers were injured in the crash.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said Friday that the 53-year-old male driver of the blue 2005 Toyota Matrix five-door wagon caused the three-car crash in Garapan.

The driver, a Chinese male music teacher, had no injuries.

Tarkong said a 53-year-old Filipino who was seated on the bed of the pickup truck had serious injuries and underwent surgery. He is currently in the intensive care unit of the Commonwealth Health Center.

The driver and the other passenger of the truck were treated at CHC and later released. Both are Filipinos.

Tarkong said police responded to the triple auto collision at the corner of Chalan Pale Arnold and Kopa Di Oru Street on Thursday at 12:08pm. At the time of the crash, it was cloudy and the road surface was wet.

Traffic investigators learned from witnesses that the white 1990 Toyota Hilux pickup truck was traveling south on the inner lane and was approaching the corner of Kopa Di Oru Street when the blue 2005 Toyota Matrix five-door wagon entered the southbound outer lane from a nearby Hanmi Hardware store. The Toyota Matrix then switched to the inner lane, colliding with the Toyota Hilux pickup.

The Toyota Matrix went under the Toyota Hilux pickup truck, lifting the truck up and pushing it to the opposite side of the lane. The truck overturned and collided with a blue 2010 Honda Civic four-door sedan that was traveling north on the inner lane.

The driver of the blue Honda Civil, a 47-year-old local female, was not injured.

The occupant of the truck, who was seated on the bed, was thrown onto the northbound shoulder after it collided with the Toyota Matrix.

Medics had to extract the truck's driver and another passenger who were trapped under the overturned truck. All three occupants of the truck were brought to CHC.

In the auto-pedestrian crash along Beach Road in Susupe Thursday night, Tarkong said an 18-year-old Chinese male was admitted to CHC's intensive care unit for serious injuries.

Tarkong said the other pedestrian, a 22-year-old Chinese male, had minor injuries and was released after being treated at CHC's emergency room.

Tarkong said the vehicles that struck the pedestrians were a white 2001 Honda Civic four-door sedan and a red 2015 Toyota Rav 4. Both drivers of the two vehicles were not injured. Traffic investigators placed the incident under further investigation.

The accident occurred on Thursday at 6:30pm, along Beach Road in front of the former Chow Queen Restaurant.

Traffic investigators learned from witnesses that the two pedestrians were attempting to cross Beach Road from the former Chow Queen Restaurant toward Kanoa Resort.

Tarkong said the white Honda Civic, driven by a 47-year-old Filipino woman, was traveling north on the inner northbound lane when it hit the two pedestrians, causing them to fall onto the inner southbound lane.

The 22-year-old pedestrian stood up and moved to the center divider, while the 18-year-old pedestrian was still on the ground.

The Toyota Rav 4, which was driven by an 18-year-old local male, run over the 18-year-old pedestrian, who was still on the ground. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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ONE IN GRIEF
Margaret Cui Lijie, majority shareholder of Best Sunshine International's parent company, Imperial Pacific International Holdings, and the founder of Grand Mariana Community Chest, and the company's chief services officer Tao Xing, along with the corporate social responsibility team led by directors Geri Dela Cruz and Rita Chong, join the rest of the Commonwealth in paying their respects during last Friday's arrival of the remains of the late governor Eloy S. Inos.

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Gas prices down 10 cents

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mobil and Shell gas stations around the island decreased gas prices another 10 cents before the start of the weekend, following the continued lowering of prices of crude oil nationwide.

Mobil lowered their prices on Friday, with regular gasoline now priced at $3.68, super at $4.009, and diesel at $3.81. Shell soon followed suit.

Jacob Mendiola, a tour bus driver, said the drop in prices is good for business, since the company uses about 12 buses that run on diesel.

For regular gasoline, he said, it helps with his several commutes from Kagman to Gualo Rai each day.

Margie Camu, a resident of Koblerville who commutes to Chalan Laulau for work, said it takes about $45 for a full tank of gas and that the 10 percent decrease is helpful but barely noticeable.

According to the *New York Times*, the current price of oil is $33 a barrel. The reasons behind the decrease in prices are many, including the competition between U.S. domestic oil production, South America, Middle East, and European oil production as well as the increased market for energy efficient automobiles. Their report adds that OPEC, a cartel of oil producers, has maintained its unwillingness to cut oil production that has resulted in heavy oversupplies.

The lowering of gas prices was also seen last week in utilities as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced a decrease in the Fuel Adjustment Charge, known formerly as the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC.

The current FAC fuel charge of $.14445 per kWh has decreased to $.12076 per kWh, a decrease that CUC said results in approximately $10 in monthly utility savings.

Name: Rinie M. Rudolph
Address: P.O. Box 505958,
Chalan Kanoa #2,
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 484-2231

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The	] FCD GU
Petition To Appoint	] CIVIL
General Guardianship	] ACTION
For:	] 15-0606
R.M.R.	]
Minor Child	] **NOTICE**
By:	] **OF**
Rinie M. Rudolph	] **HEARING**
Petitioner	]
	]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 4, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 21st day of December, 2015.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

BoG'S Carlson earns AIF status

Carlson

HAGATNA, Guam— Amoretta P. Carlson, vice president/trust and Endowment Services manager of the Bank of Guam, has earned the Accredited Investment Fiduciary status.

The AIF designation is awarded to those who successfully complete a specialized program on investment fiduciary standards of care, subsequently passing a comprehensive examination.

Carlson, who has been with Bank of Guam since 1983, has managed the bank's Business Development, Customer Service, Real Estate and BG Wealth Departments before joining the Trust Department in 2005. A graduate of the University of Guam, she is a Certified Corporate Trust Specialist, earned from the Institute of Certified Bankers, a nonprofit organization sponsored by the American Bankers Association.

Carlson served as a board member of Mercy Action Marianas, Ltd. and is with the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association. ***(BoG)***

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Governor Eloy Songao Inos

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Torres vetoes 'problematic provisions' in funding bill

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Wednesday vetoed a local provision, among other vetoed items, that would have allowed precinct lawmakers to control the funds of specific public works projects, in approving a local appropriations bill Wednesday.

Torres also vetoed provisions that would give additional monies to the accounts of delegation leadership members, and ten of thousands of dollars to the delegation for participation in the Festival of Pacific Arts in Guam in 2016 and similar amounts to local farmers for crop loss, citing a lack of clarification in these purposes.

The provisions came as part of House Local Bill 19-37,D7, which appropriates $4.27 million from poker license fees.

Torres called one provision—which provides expenditure authority for funds to members of each respective precinct in consultation with the secretaries of the Departments of Public works and Finance—as unconstitutional.

Torres said in a letter to lawmakers that granting the local delegation expenditure authority over appropriation for these projects—which include public road paving and repairs, park facility improvements, and Public School System improvements—is in violation of the separation of powers doctrine.

The constitutional function of the CNMI Legislature is to enact legislation and make general appropriations, Torres reminded lawmakers in his letter, and the Executive Branch is granted the power to execute and implement laws.

"The delegation…does not posses the constitutional authority to confer onto its members the authority to control or dictate the expenditure of public funds for various public works projects that are Executive Branch functions," Torres said.

» **Provisions found unconstitutional, unclear**

Additional $75K

Torres found that one provision unconstitutionally attempted to provide additional funding to members of the Saipan Northern Islands Delegation, even as the CNMI Constitution establishes a "budget ceiling requirement and parity obligations in regards to funding each member of the CNMI Legislature."

Section 16 of the bill provides that each member of the Legislature would receive a chunk of the appropriated money for "office expenses." Currently, budget law set that amount at $74,822, but the local bill violated this constitutional parity requirement by appropriating another $75,000 to be divided among delegation leadership members and another $25,000 to be allocated among the delegation minority members.

"The Saipan and Northern Island Delegation is a subunit of the CNMI Legislature and is not permitted to receive more money than any other member," Torres said.

$50K appropriations vetoed

A $50,000 appropriation to the delegation for participation in the Festpac was vetoed because it was "questionable and needs further clarification."

"It is unclear in my opinion what public purpose that would be served," if the monies were appropriated, Torres wrote.

Another $50,000 for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division for Agriculture, for "equal distribution to the CNMI Farmer's Cooperative Association and the Saipan Sabalu Farmer's Market Inc., was also found "problematic" and disapproved.

"The manner by which the funds are to be distributed to members of these organizations who suffered crop loss due to Typhoon Soudelor needs further clarification to properly meet the intent of the appropriation," Torres wrote.

This provision did not spell out how crop loss would be verified, or what would happen if a farmer belonged to both organizations, and if the size of crop would matter for the amount of money given for mitigation, administrations officials close to the veto decisions said Thursday.

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Couple indicted on charge of harboring illegal aliens

A federal grand jury has indicted a couple who allegedly got paid to harbor two illegal Chinese aliens, including a child they enrolled in a public school.

The indictment charged Francisco Muna Tydingco and Lili Zhang Tydingco with two counts of harboring illegal aliens.

According to the indictment, from Sept. 28, 2013, to Feb. 19, 2015, the Tydingcos in reckless disregard of the fact that a minor child had come to and remained in the U.S. in violation of law, "did knowingly and intentionally conceal, harbor, or shield from detection," the child "in any place, including any building, for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain."

Beginning July 25, 2014, and up until Oct. 10, 2014, the Tydingcos allegedly did the same offense to conceal, harbor, or shield Rongxue Liu.

The Tydingcos will be arraigned tomorrow, Jan. 12 at 10am.

A complaint against the couple was initially filed last week in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

At the initial appearance hearing last Dec. 29, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona released Lili Tydingco upon posting a $10,000 unsecured bond.

At a detention hearing for Francisco Tydingco on Wednesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather released Francisco Tydingco upon posting a $15,000 unsecured bond.

According to Homeland Security Investigations Task Force officer Jesse Dubrall, the child's purported uncle stated in an interview that he paid Lili Tydingco $7,000 in exchange for helping him enter into a fake marriage and obtain a green card.

Dubrall said the parents of the child admitted that they agreed to pay Lili Tydingco between $15,000 and $20,000 to take their child to Saipan and get her a green card. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Participants sought for Sanpo-En student exchange program

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office is looking for participants for this year's Sanpo-En Winter Cultural Students Exchange Program.

According to the mayor's student cultural exchange program coordinator Yuki Kishimoto, this year's trip is set for Feb. 3 to 9.

"This is a Saipan cultural exchange program so we are looking for locals especially Chamorro or Carolinian students to represent the island," Kishimoto said.

Interested participants must be 12 to 18 years old.

The Mayor's Office is looking at about 12 student participants for this year's trip. Some chaperones from their office will also assist during the trip.

Students who will participate will have to pay for their own airfare but other expenses will be shouldered by the cultural exchange group.

"Same as every year, the students will pay their own airfare but the accommodations in Japan such as transportation, meal, and lodging will be covered by the Sanpo-En group," Kishimoto said.

Application forms can be picked up at the Mayor's Office or downloaded online through their website, www.saipanmayor.net.

Kishimoto said the deadline for applications is on Jan. 13.

For more information, call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208.

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PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN
PUBLIC NOTICE

To Our Valued Guests:

Due to high occupancy, PIC Waterpark passes will not be available for purchase from January 2 to 15, 2016. In addition, PIC Waterpark and Lunch/Brunch Promo will not be available too. Pre-purchased Gift Certificates, PTC and Triple J passes will be honored.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

PIC Management

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fourteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the PSS Emergency Operations Center, Building 1254, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments [1]

III. Reports

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1. Election of Officers

VI. Executive Session [2]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

VII. Administrative Matters

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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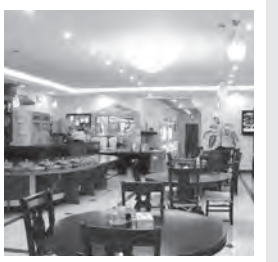

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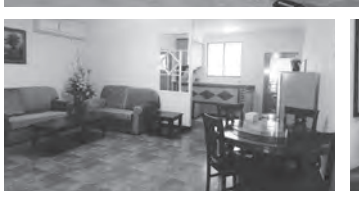
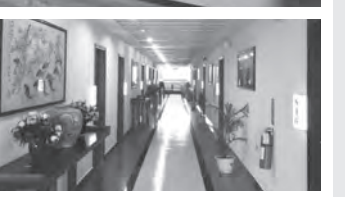

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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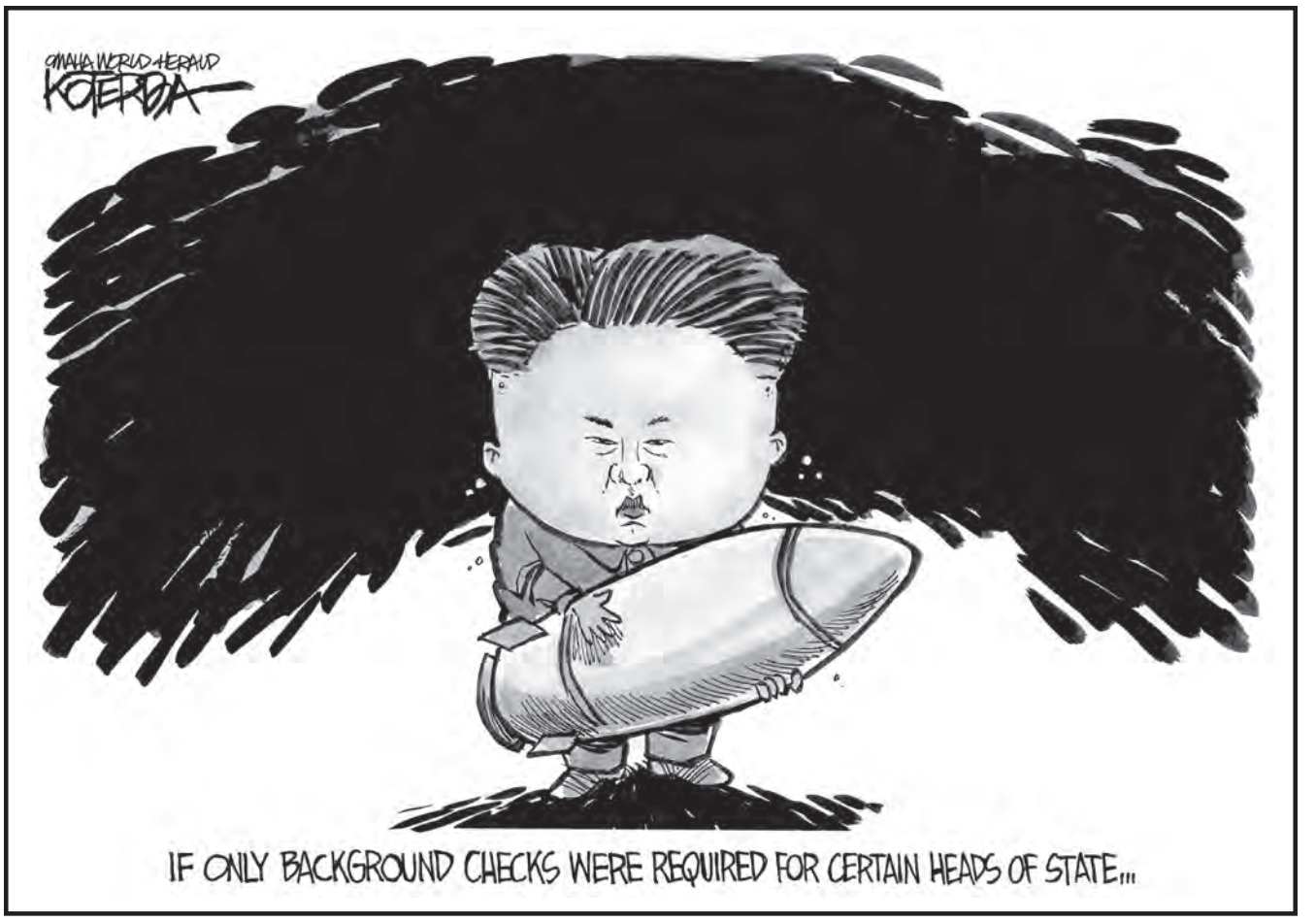

EDITORIAL

North Korea tests the world with its latest nuclear detonation

The earth rumbled beneath the Korean peninsula Tuesday evening, signaling an underground nuclear test by rogue nation North Korea. Pyongyang claimed to have set off its first hydrogen bomb, but experts looking at seismographs saw evidence of a much smaller explosion—likely the country's fourth atomic bomb test since 2006. Possibly, it was an atom bomb boosted by additional nuclear material.

H-bomb or A-bomb, the impact is clear: a nasty reminder that one of the world's most isolated regimes poses a great danger.

There's a clockwork-like predictability to North Korea's belligerence and brinkmanship: Every so often—just when the world seems fully focused on other crises—the North ratchets up tension by testing a bomb or ballistic missile.

There's a frightening pattern to the world's response too, which began again Wednesday: condemnations followed by threats of more sanctions, though the North already is thoroughly sanctioned. Then, expect an uncomfortable shrug because past negotiations failed and war is not an option against a nuclear-armed country that values the survival of its regime and not much else.

Within weeks, the world probably moves on, and so will North Korea, on its march to perfecting weapons of mass destruction.

So what do we have to show for decades of patience with North Korea? Um, four nuclear tests.

About that shrug. The Obama administration actually has a name for it: "strategic patience." The phrase was first used by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2009. The idea is to wait out the North, using subtle pressure to coax it back to the negotiating table to strike a grand bargain on its nuclear program.

So what do we have to show for decades of patience with North Korea? Um, four nuclear tests. And some ballistic missile tests too, putting the North further along the path to its presumed goal of testing nuclear-armed missiles capable of striking the United States.

This is the problem with endless patience and wandering attention. A wily foe such as North Korea will not waste its opportunity to cause trouble.

About that wily foe: Kim Jong Un, North Korea's third-generation leader, shows no more interest than his father or grandfather in changing North Korea's paranoid approach. He uses threats and bluster to keep the outside world off balance. At home, his regime keeps the population under absolute control, in near complete isolation, allowing the government to spin a fantasy about North Korea as a worker's paradise bravely facing down enemies.

In North Korea's alternate reality, testing an "H-bomb of justice" is needed to fend off "a gang of cruel robbers"—yes, the United States. A North Korea statement

See NORTH KOREA on Next Page

Relativity and chaos

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

We are now into the year 2016 in the Gregorian calendar. I was just in China where my mind stayed on the U$ dollar mindset. Thus, a 20rmb luggage charge at the Dalian train station was still $3 in the brain, an acceptable figure enough on Saipan until I realized that the middle class worker receives only 3,000rmb/month, only a sixth of value compared to Saipan teachers' income.

The renowned Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho has a few best-sellers, one of them *Eleven Minutes,* the magical length of a normal amorous encounter. The quip on this trip was that I was in *Dong Bei* for 11 days, and my wife and I were lucky to see each other for 11 minutes.

She has two very sick parents to attend to 24/7 in an unfinished dwelling new enough that its central heating still functions and the bidet works, but in the middle of winter where all are bundled up, sensuality was not the order of the day!

We had been treating "chaos" as the "state of disorder," its definition in mathematics more precise, though more related to determined predictability than disorder. The theory of relativity with its empirically analyzed elements skews hypothesis; it depends on natural processes. Experience matches conclusion through calculations rather than prediction. That's why it is called "relativity," silly.

The real estate developer of *Xiang Jiang* (HK) Hutchinson built Huiland Development in Shenbei where I parked my butt off the campus of the Shenyang Aerospace U next to Liaoning U within walking distance. I climbed the back fence at my apartment Sunday evening when I arrived, thinking there was no one in as the lights outdoors were not lit, only to discover my in-laws watching TV. Well, mother was; father-in-law is technically blind, so he listened.

I forgot about austerity on electricity. Both hard of hearing, they did not hear my knock, the doorbell didn't work, and my wife was cleaning my papa-in-laws' incontinence.

A recognizable marker of the residence is the Puhe River that looks more like a creek. In winter, the river invites young skaters with moms hollering instructions on tails that are thickly padded, and dads hunched on holes where they drop a line to fish. The catch does not make it to the dining table as the activity is more recreational than food gathering.

My getting home in Shenyang at mid-evening was an exercise in choking in the cold. A two-block jaunt to the residence from the gate guards, the PM2.5 reading was high and the dry air rapidly parched the throat. In the morning, the sun slanted at 30 degrees in the horizon looked like a bright moon against heavily polluted clouds.

Construction runs China's economy since Deng Xiaoping opened the market to foreign investments. Real estate, that non-renewable commodity, received the financial focus. Building low-cost high-rise structures were encouraged so now we have "ghost" towns and sparsely populated neighborhoods. My housing development, the affordable four-story kind, is such an example.

The in-laws lived on a fourth floor apartment *sans* an elevator (six-story buildings are not required to have one). Grandpa, hospitalized for hipbone replacement, suffers from diabetes that deteriorated his eyesight, and agonizes from arterial disorders; it made moving to a first floor unit a no-brainer. Grandma has the yard to cultivate in the spring, summer, and fall, with an irksome backache and deep cough.

Shenyang brags of clean drinking water from the tap but the bathwater that came out to fill the tub this time is like swimming in the Puhe River in the summer. The suburban development fully subscribed to is 15 percent occupied. Acquiring a unit meant doing the interior; ours took eight months to do floorings, windows, walls, ceilings, lights and bathrooms, with labor at seven days a week doubling cost but shortened time.

Papa-in-law inches his walker to the dining table when impatient grandma barks for him to eat. Daughter is go-fer, 24 hours. I slept in the guest room so she can get rested as she is at her parents beck-and-call all night. The duo prefers sleeping in the daytime. My spouse did not return to Saipan with me and she will probably be in Shenyang a good while until suitable care is found for the elders.

Just as well. Checking into my flight, I discovered my booking was canceled. Shenzhen Air charged me $180 to get to Shanghai. My luggage was 5 kilos overweight so the Jim Beam and 16 percent alcohol-per-water-volume beer moved to the carry-on, only to be told by security to return them to the counter and check it in. It was not purchased at Duty Free that guarantees the purity of the product. So Security disposed of it.

The trip to Saipan via Shanghai and Guam was both a nightmare and a dream; we shall reserve that for a later telling. I left China three days after the solar New Year, returned to a Saipan lagoon where the water is warm all year-round, its chaos more reasonably relative and manageable. I won't trade the tropics for winter.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Leadership

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio covered politics, mmigration, environment, business and other news beats as a reporter for Saipan Tribune *and other news media in the CNMI for 16 years. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

By Monday afternoon, if the House of Representatives moves on with its session, the CNMI's executive and legislative officers will be: Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Senate President Francisco M. Borja (Ind-Tinian) and House Speaker Ralph S. Demapan (R-Saipan). Now, read that again.

Who are they? What are the criticisms against them? What did they do or didn't do? What do they have in common? Why should anyone care to get to know them?

Torres, a lieutenant governor for less than a year, became the youngest governor at 36 on Dec. 29, 2015, with the passing of Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

While his youthfulness, large family and heavy political machinery helped him win votes in previous elections, Torres is being criticized for lacking experience to lead the CNMI, for his close ties with exclusive Saipan casino licensee Best Sunshine, and more recently, his ascension to power as governor raises constitutional questions.

Torres graduated from Boise High School in 1996 and earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Boise State University in Idaho in 2001. It's not publicly known what he did between the time he graduated in 2001 and the time he started working for his brothers' law firm in 2004. Between 2004 and 2008, he worked as administrator for Torres Brothers, LLC, Attorneys at Law.

His first foray into politics was in 2007 when he ran for a House of Representatives seat representing Precinct 1. He won and was sworn into office on Jan. 14, 2008, as a member of the 16th House of Representatives. He was chairman of the Committee on Health, Education and Welfare.

After serving a single term in the House, Torres set his sights on the Senate and won the 2009 elections. He was sworn in as a member of the 17th Senate in 2010 and served as chairman of the Committee on Health and Welfare, as well as the Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs. He was re-elected in 2012 and served in the 18th Senate.

As Senate president, Torres was among a group of lawmakers who went on trips to Singapore, Macau, and other Asian countries supposedly to meet with investors interested in the CNMI. Upon their return from one of their latest trips, a Saipan casino legalization bill was introduced.

Torres became Inos' running mate in 2014 and won in both the general elections and the runoff race. Because Inos spent several months off-island for medical reasons, Torres assumed the governor's post in an acting capacity, including during the Internet outage and the relief and recovery after Typhoon Soudelor battered Saipan.

But there are those who believe a special election is called for by the Constitution since there's still more than one year remaining in Inos' term when he passed on.

Elected Attorney General Ed Manibusan said in a legal opinion there is no need to call for a special gubernatorial election.

The healthy discussion on whether or not a special election to elect a governor is called for continues. Again, the issue is likely to reach the courts because, as others put it, there is a succession issue that needs to be resolved once and for all.

A citizen demand may also be filed for a special election based on a plain reading and interpretation as well as textual analysis of Article III, Section 7 of the Commonwealth Constitution as a whole and in the context of one another, a reading of the 1985 amendment and a reading of the language of 1 CMC section 6502, among other things.

Hocog has, for years, been criticized for being untrustworthy and more recently, for his close ties with exclusive Saipan casino license holder Best Sunshine and his ascendancy to the lieutenant governorship when more than one year remains.

One of the basis for the criticism may have been an inability to pay off personal debts. In 2013, the Superior Court found Hocog and his wife liable for unpaid rent on a piece of land on Rota. The couple, who had not paid rent since 2009, was ordered to pay $292,049 in overdue rent, interest, and attorney's costs.

He won a House seat representing Rota during the 16th Legislature, when Torres also first served as a lawmaker. He tried to run for mayor of Rota thrice but lost every time—in 1989, 2005, and 2009.

More recently, he's taken an active role in the development of a private undertaking, M/V *Luta*, whose arrival in the CNMI to provide vessel services between Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam has been postponed a few times. There's allegation that the vessel is owned or partly owned by his family members. To date, there is no news on where the vessel is.

Hocog has also been criticized for funneling, via the Rota Legislative Delegation that he headed, $400,000 in CNMI taxpayers' money for M/V *Luta*'s fuel in exchange for a promised discount rates for vendors using the vessel to transport their cargo for seven months.

Like Torres, Hocog was also one of those lawmakers who went on Asian trips to meet with investors and after one of the last trips, a bill to allow casinos on Saipan was introduced.

The new Senate president, Borja, also joined Torres, Hocog and others on the Asian trips that helped lead to the introduction of a Saipan casino bill. Prior to being a senator, Borja served as mayor of Tinian.

Demapan, the expected new House speaker by this afternoon, was the main author of the bill allowing Saipan casino on Saipan. The bill was introduced after repeated Asian trips to supposedly meet with investors.

When lawmakers came under fire for passing the Saipan casino bill without any public hearings and without a committee report, Demapan, Hocog, Torres, Borja and others touted the millions of dollars that will circulate in the CNMI by way of taxes, along with helping the NMI Retirement Fund, create jobs and result in multiplier effects.

These changes in CNMI leadership come months ahead of the November 2016 midterm elections.

■■■

NOT-SO-BLIND ITEM. Local and federal authorities have been notified about alleged use of tourists as construction workers for a major tourism project on Saipan. It's uncertain whether any preliminary check or investigation has started.

All this, at a time when some law-abiding employers had to temporarily shut down their business or reduce their operations because they have yet to get a renewal CW permit for some of their foreign workers.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A succession crisis in our midst

It is often a clear and workable doctrine in constitutional law that the provision of a constitution that is unconstitutional would not affect other parts or provision that are deemed constitutional.

In Section 7 of Article lll of the CNMI Constitution this is particularly obvious even if you are not a lawyer. The second sentence states, "If the offices of governor and lieutenant governor are both vacant, the president of the Senate shall become acting governor and the speaker of the House shall become acting lieutenant governor." The president of the Senate and the speaker of the House could not serve as elected officials of the Legislature and serve as acting governor or acting lieutenant governor, respectively, in the Executive Branch. The separation of powers and dual posts prohibition in other sections of the CNMI Constitution make this very clear. Hence, this part of Section 7 of Article lll would have no effect of law.

I don't think any trained lawyer in the Office of the Attorney General, House and Senate in the Legislature, lieutenant governor's and governor's offices, CNMI Election Commission, and all the members of the Legislature would disagree on this. I do urge our elected leaders keep reading the CNMI Constitution because what we have is a line of succession crisis. It is a matter of separation of powers between the Legislature and Executive Branch that give much problems in the present line of succession crisis, hence the situation is a basket case of urgency.

Holding dual posts simultaneously by an elected official of the Legislature as acting governor or acting lieutenant governor is prohibited by statutes and the Constitution. It is constitutional for a person who is properly vetted and who is outside the order of line of succession fill and assume as acting governor or acting lieutenant governor. The OAG and AG could opine to this effect and it would be constitutional. This is not explicitly stated but by implied language, nonetheless, such opinion could stand constitutional challenge. Unfortunately, this by implication is a source of confusion. It requires the OAG and AG, including the lawyers in the House and Senate, offices of the governor and lieutenant governor, and CNMI Election Commission to do something. The Legislature is not immune to all these.

If silence is the favored route by either the OAG and AG or the Legislature, this would turn to be a "namahmahlau" to all these principals, individually and all inclusive. What say you?

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

NORTH KOREA

From Page 12

Wednesday justifying the nuke test was filled with such flourishes: "Nothing is more foolish than dropping a hunting gun before herds of ferocious wolves," it said.

What to do? Waiting around for North Korea to change is folly. The country, bumping along in poverty and always at risk of famine, has an apparently limitless capacity to endure hardship. North Koreans don't know any better. The Kim family designed their country that way.

There is one untapped vulnerability. Most of North Korea's imports, including food and energy, come from China. A Congressional Research Service report said it plainly: Food and energy aid from China is "an essential lifeline for the regime."

China's main worry is preventing the collapse of North Korea, which could cause a refugee crisis on China's border. Just as bad, from China's vantage point, would be for the North to be absorbed by South Korea, a key American ally.

Still, there are signs Beijing may be frustrated with Kim Jong Un. The Chinese government protested the nuclear test as loudly as the U.S., and China's President Xi Jinping has never met Kim, seemingly a snub. Beijing knows that the more Kim stirs up trouble, the more active the U.S. will get in defending the Pacific, tightening ties along the way with South Korea and Japan. That threatens to hem in China.

Relying on China to protect American interests shouldn't be at the top of anyone's New Year's resolution list, but with four nuclear tests in the bag, it's time for the U.S. to replace "strategic patience" with some urgency. Let's find out if China is ready to push North Korea into serious talks. Meanwhile, the U.S. should put additional pressure on North Korea through a greater show of military force in the Pacific.

North Korea's menacing behavior is a reminder of why the U.S. has to demand strict adherence from Iran on its nuclear deal. The negotiators of that deal seemed to learn something from the failed nuclear agreement with North Korea reached by Bill Clinton in 1994. But that lesson will be lost if the U.S., as it seems to be doing so far, is willing to let Iran duck and dodge.

Nor can the U.S. allow other issues—including Iran—to distract from the threat of nuclear North Korea. The next bomb Pyongyang detonates in a test could be big enough to truly frighten the world, or small enough to place on an intercontinental ballistic missile.

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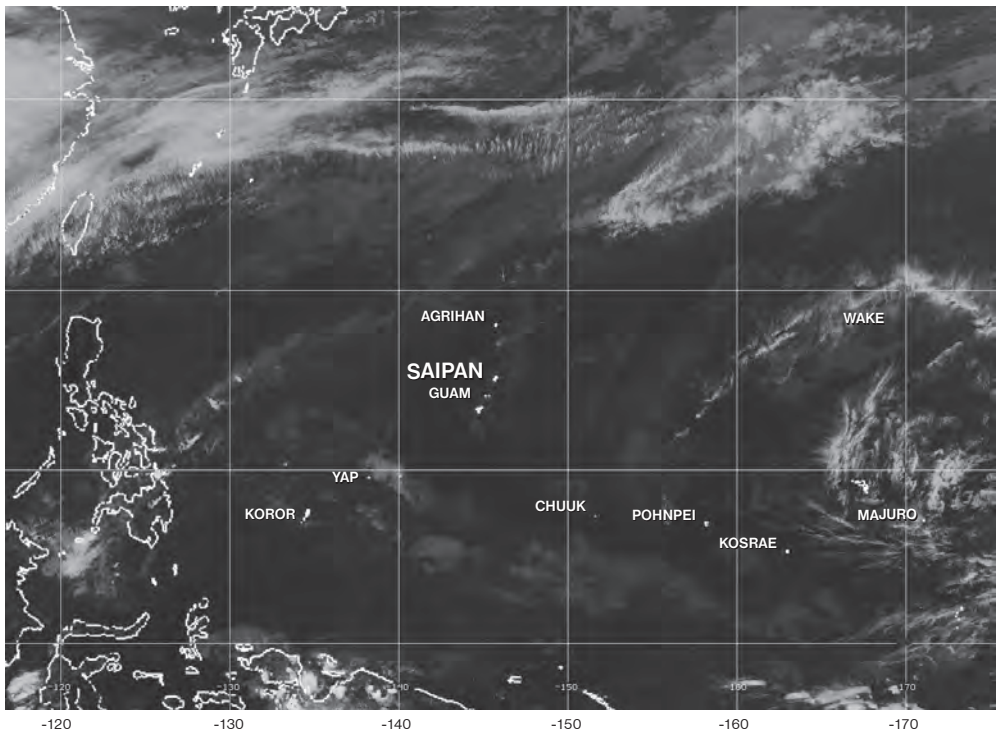
The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86º ▼75º	▲87º ▼74º	▲86º ▼75º	▲87º ▼74º	▲87º ▼74º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:21PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2016

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northeastward from east of the central Philippines at 12N130E to 21N141E. Scattered showers associated with this feature are occurring over the Philippine Sea within 80 miles of a line from 14N130E to 22N144E. An old frontal boundary extends northeastward from 22N145E to beyond 25N at 150E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are evident north of the Marianas within 60 miles of a line at 22N143E to 25N150E. Trade-wind convergence is causing widely scattered showers from east of Yap southeastward to southeast of Chuuk within 80 miles of a line from 10N139E to 4N150E to 2N159E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲31	▼11
Hong Kong	Rain	▲67	▼59
Honolulu	Sunny	▲83	▼69
London	Showers	▲48	▼35
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼46
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼73
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲98	▼62
Miami	Thundershowers	▲82	▼59
New York	Rain	▲61	▼33
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲52	▼39
Paris	Showers	▲49	▼44
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼26
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼53
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼31
San Francisco	Showers	▲57	▼49
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲32	▼17
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲49	▼37
Washington, DC	Showers	▲59	▼26

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:28 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.5 Feet
9:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:56 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
7:54 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:24 AM	7:14 PM
Tuesday	8:15 AM	8:12 PM
Wednesday	9:04 AM	9:10 PM
Thursday	9:52 AM	10:07 PM
Friday	10:39 AM	11:04 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Kilili endorses Clinton to be next US President

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) today is announcing his endorsement of Hillary Rodham Clinton at a rally in Los Angeles, California. Sablan will join Clinton and dozens of other Asian American and Pacific Islanders from around the nation to launch AAPIs for Hillary. Clinton plans to speak at the event of how she will fight for Asian American and Pacific Islanders as President of the United States.

"Today, I am endorsing Hillary Rodham Clinton to be the next President of the United States. Hillary Clinton has demonstrated over a lifetime of public service that she is committed to the welfare of all Americans," Sablan said. "Her wide experience in the public and private sectors, as first lady of Arkansas and the United States, as a U.S. senator, and as Secretary of State has given her the know-how and leadership ability to turn her commitment into results. And she has proven over and over again that she has the toughness to take on those who would hurt our nation or turn us away from our goal of ever-expanding freedom and opportunity for all."

Sablan

Clinton

Sablan believes that gender is not a qualification for President and for that reason, he is particularly enthusiastic in supporting Clinton.

"Her election to the highest office in the land will prove to my five daughters—and to daughters and sisters and mothers everywhere in America—that in the 21st century nothing stands in the way of their success. I believe, too, as America becomes a nation of greater diversity, it is Ms. Clinton and the Democratic Party that will lead us away from the politics of division based on race, religion, or place of origin and toward a politics of inclusion for all Americans. I myself represent that emerging diversity as someone whose heritage is both Pacific Islander and Hispanic."

The delegate from the CNMI added that he also represents many people who were not born in this country.

"We became U.S. citizens later in life and now proudly call ourselves Americans. So it is important that I give my support to a candidate who sees what unites us all in this great nation and who is unafraid to face bigotry head-on. That candidate is Hillary Clinton. Although the U.S. citizens I represent in the Northern Mariana Islands cannot vote for President—not yet, there are people from the Northern Marianas residing throughout America. I urge them and I urge Asian Pacific Americans in every state and the District of Columbia to demonstrate the growing power of our AAPI community by coming to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 8 and voting for Hillary Rodham Clinton to be the 45th President of the United States. *Biba* Hillary!"

People of the Northern Mariana Islands and AAPIs throughout America can find out more by contacting Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders for Hillary, AAPI-Outreach@HillaryClinton.com. ***(Office of the CNMI Delegate)***

Bill seeks to expand AmeriCorps service coverage to FAS citizens

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) has introduced federal legislation to extend eligibility for national service programs to citizens of the Freely Associated States who reside in the United States and are otherwise eligible for these programs. Specifically her bill would amend Section 5 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to include citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands who reside in the U.S. on the list of eligible individuals. The current statute only allows U.S. citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent residents to participate in these programs.

» Kilili one of bill's co-sponsors

Because of the unique relationship between the U.S. and the Freely Associated States, FAS citizens are not required to obtain a visa or become lawful permanent residents to enter and reside in the U.S. Congresswoman Bordallo believes that FAS citizens who live in the U.S. should be allowed to participate in national service programs, similar to their ability to serve in our military or receive student financial aid. Her bill would fix this disparity and ensure that those who wish to participate in these programs are not disqualified simply because they do not meet the citizenship guidelines.

The bill is co-sponsored by Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02) of Hawaii and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"Citizens from the Freely Associated States who reside in the U.S. should be allowed to participate in national community service programs, just as they are allowed to serve in our military or receive student aid to further their education," said Congresswoman Bordallo. "It is only fair that if we can allow FAS citizens to serve in our military and protect our way of life, then we should also allow them to serve our local communities through community service. I was disappointed when last year several FAS citizens who had already begun their service projects were removed from the AmeriCorps program simply because they did not meet the citizenship eligibility requirements. These individuals are role models who want to help our community, and they should be allowed to do so through community service."

I appreciate the leadership of Senator B.J. Cruz for championing this issue in the Guam Legislature and working with me to develop this bill. I also appreciate the support of my colleagues, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii and Congressman Kilili Sablan from the Northern Mariana Islands, who are cosponsors of this bill. I look forward to working with them to move this bill through the legislative process and having it enacted it into law."

"This legislation would help tens of thousands of COFA migrants living in the United States, including more than 12,000 in Hawaii, gain valuable job training and skills, and give back to our community, by participating in programs that provide disaster relief services, educational opportunities, environmental restoration, and health care assistance to communities across the country," said Gabbard, who introduced legislation to reinstate Medicaid eligibility for COFA migrants last year. Bordallo is an original cosponsor of Gabbard's bill.

"I thank Congresswoman Bordallo for identifying this problem in Guam and offering a solution that will help young people from the Freely Associated States living in the Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaii, and throughout the United States," said Sablan. ***(PR)***

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YOUR CASINO AND ENTERTAINMENT PARADISE IN SAIPAN
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CLUB C
Gaming & Entertainment
YOUR CASINO AND ENTERTAINMENT PARADISE IN SAIPAN
JEWEL MADISON
Member
Club C staff will be available to register you for FREE membership of the Club C.
As you play you will be able to watch your membership points increase
You can use your points to purchase great food from our restaurant and drinks from our Bar.
You can enjoy all of our great entertainment from Gaming to the use of our Bar and Restaurant while listening to the music of Mike Blue.
Come in during the week from Monday the 4th of Jan. to Sunday the 31st of Jan. 2016 and participate in the bonus increases in your Points allocation on the following games.
Monday Nil
Tuesday Nil
Wednesday Aruze Roulette double points allocated
Thursday Slots double points allocated
Friday LT Multi Game Terminals (Baccarat, Roulette, Blackjack and Sicbo) triple points allocated
Saturday LT Multi Game Terminals (Baccarat, Roulette, Blackjack and Sicbo) triple points allocated
Sunday Big Wheel, Sicbo and Craps double points allocated
Club C Membership is FREE and while playing you can see your Points increase on the display screen on your gaming machine.
One Point equals One penny in value.
OPEN DAILY: 12:00 noon to 4:00 a.m. | 234-0088 | www.clubcsaipan.com
Must be 18 to enter and 21 to consume alcohol | Designated Smoking Game Area
Located at the Lobby of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe
WiFi
www.facebook/clubcsaipan

SBA Disaster Loan Center on Capital Hill closes today

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Director Jane Sawyer of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Hawaii District Office announced Friday that SBA will close its Disaster Loan Outreach Center on Capital Hill at the close of business today, Jan. 11.

"SBA opened the center to provide personalized assistance to Saipan businesses and residents who were affected by Typhoon Soudelor that occurred Aug. 1-3, 2015," said Sawyer.

So far, SBA has approved more than $10.9 million in low interest disaster loans to Saipan businesses and more than $13.3 million to individuals.

Businesses and residents can still meet with SBA representatives today, Jan. 11, from 8am to 4:30pm. No appointment is necessary. The center is located at the Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building, Office of the Governor, Isa Drive, Capital Hill.

"Although the deadline to apply for property damage loans has expired, small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations of any size may continue to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business or nonprofit organization suffered any property damage," Sawyer said.

At the center, SBA representatives are available to help business owners apply for EIDL assistance and help residents and business owners close their approved disaster loans.

Small, nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size may qualify for an EIDL of up to $2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact.

The interest rate is 4 percent for businesses and 2.625 percent for private nonprofit organizations with terms up to 30 years. The deadline to submit an EIDL application is May 5, 2016.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application via SBA's secure website, https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955 or emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call (800) 877-8339. ***(SBA)***

Cruz calls for update on Guam minimum wage study

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Keen to begin analysis of economic data on the effects of last year's single dollar increase to the minimum wage, Vice Speaker Benjamin J. F. Cruz has issued Freedom of Information Act requests to the Guam Department of Labor and the Guam Economic Development Authority on Friday to ensure that agencies are making timely progress on the Independent Economic Impact Statement as required by Guam Public Law 32-229.

The economic study is part of the unanimous, bipartisan compromise implemented to allay concerns of both private and public sector stakeholders who were critical of Bill 316-32, legislation Cruz introduced in April 2014 to boost Guam's minimum hourly wage to $10.10 in three annual 95-cent increments. After days of public hearings and a threat of a veto, a pared-down version of the measure was passed and enacted into law as P.L. 32-178 in July 2014, reducing the increase to a single dollar—from $7.25 to $8.25 an hour—effective Jan. 1, 2015.

Senators agreed to resume discussion on future increments based on the findings of the one-year independent economic impact study, to be completed on March 30, 2016, on the effects of the minimum wage increase authorized through P.L. 32-178.

"The people of Guam, workers and their employers alike, deserve timely, tangible evidence of the economic effects of the wage increase," said Cruz, whose request aims to yield all public records related to the economic statement, including the full procurement file for any request for proposal issued for its conduct, as well as any related correspondence. "By acquiring these documents, we are not only ascertaining whether GDOL and GEDA are fulfilling their duties to the community, but we are also ensuring that the future of wage increases will not fall victim to bureaucratic malaise."

The one-year impact study serves as an assessment of the 2015 wage increase's effect on several aspects of Guam's local economy. Under P.L. 32-229, GDOL is tasked with issuing the RFP for its conduct, and working with GEDA to identify its funding, and with the University of Guam to determine its parameters. However, despite the impending deadline for completion in less than three months, Cruz has not received updates on the statement's progress from the entities assigned to ensure the conduct of the study.

"To delay such evidence would be a denial of the independence and dignity that hard-working, minimum wage earners deserve," said Cruz. "No one who works a full-time job should have to live in poverty; that is as true today as it was a year ago."

Since the enactment of the wage increase last year, Cruz notes, unemployment and overall inflation on Guam have decreased. According to the most recent Bureau of Labor and Statistics employment report, Guam's economy has witnessed an additional 1,270 private sector jobs in June 2015 when compared to the previous year. Similarly, economist Joseph Bradley predicts a 3- to 4-percent economic growth in his latest forecast, suggesting an environment conducive to a second wage increase for Guam since the federal minimum wage was increased to $7.25 in 2010.

"Evidence presented in 2014 show that contrary to what opponents have contended, raising the minimum wage will not eradicate jobs, incite massive inflation, or spur the use of public benefits," said Cruz, whose hallmark legislation was the result of 18 months of study, data collection, and analysis—including consultation with no fewer than five private and public sector economists. "Accordingly, I am confident that an honest, unbiased impact study will support additional increments as I originally proposed in 2014." ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016, starting at 5:30pm at the Chamolinian Room of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Guest speaker will be Dr. Tiffany Lin, department chair of Pediatrics/UCSF Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellow, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. She will facilitate a roundtable discussion on "how to give your past medical history to your doctor," as well as the key points that are important for survivors, and caregivers to know about the disease. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL I
On the island of ROTA

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Director of Law Enforcement and Security in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs enforcement and execution of court orders and service documents such as jury summons;
- Performs court security duties required for judicial proceedings, protection of justices, judges, court staff, clients, jurors, witnesses, and judicial facilities; assists in the operation of the court's security control monitoring systems;
- Conducts inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibits the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; provides the public with direction and information on all public services locations within the courthouse;
- Prepares written reports of service and non-service documents, incidents, and other reports as required;
- Performs prisoner handling while awaiting court hearings; escorts prisoners to courtrooms and to holding cells as directed;
- Has knowledge of and follows courtroom directives;
- Completes annually all required training including firearms; complies to all procedures relative to the proper use, maintenance, and security of government issued firearms;
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be $16,652 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted either in hard copy or electronically:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

WORLD RESORT
SAIPAN

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: January 8, 2016 **POSITION: Graphic Artist**
CLOSE DATE: January 22, 2016 **SALARY: $6.05 - $7.05 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two years experience in computer/network or formal education/training in Design related subjects highly preferred. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 8, 2016 **POSITION: Purchasing Clerk (Part-Time)**
CLOSE DATE: January 22, 2016 **SALARY: $6.05 - $7.05 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in purchasing related field preferred. Computer literacy preferred. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 8, 2016 **POSITION: Human Resources Clerk**
CLOSE DATE: January 22, 2016 **SALARY: $6.05 - $7.05 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in human resources or administrative preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide support, friendly attitude and a ready smile. Two (2) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 8, 2016 **POSITION: Bellhop**
CLOSE DATE: January 22, 2016 **SALARY: $6.05 - $7.05 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. A valid Driver's License is required and must be 25 years old or older. Experience in a hotel environment preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 8, 2016 POSITION: Server
CLOSE DATE: January 22, 2016 SALARY: $6.05 - $7.05 per hour

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. Friendly personality, willingness to serve and a readily smiling individual highly preferred. Two (2) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 8, 2016 **POSITION: Lifeguard**
CLOSE DATE: January 22, 2016 **SALARY: $6.05 - $7.05 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification will be required for continued employment for the lifeguard position. Must have a friendly and an outgoing personality. Three (3) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 8, 2016 **POSITION: Water Park Cashier**
CLOSE DATE: January 22, 2016 **SALARY: $6.05 - $7.05 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two years experience in a cashier type occupation preferred. Must have a friendly and an outgoing personality. Two (2) positions are currently available.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext, 274/266/576. Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.

BoG offers $10K in scholarships to Class of '16

HAGATNA, Guam—Applications are now available for Bank of Guam's 2016 IFIT Scholarship Program, which makes $2,000 available to five graduating high school seniors to attend a U.S. accredited four-year college or university. The scholarship also includes a paid summer internship at the bank's branches.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must:

1. Reside in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or San Francisco, California;

2. Be high school seniors, Class of 2016 (copies of transcripts and SAT and/or ACT scores required);

3. Submit application by March 11, 2016, to Bank of Guam, ATTN: Communications Department;

4. Submit three letters of recommendation, two from a teacher or administrator from the student's high school and one from a reference of choice; and

5. Submit answers to three essay questions (please see brochure for additional rules), and a one-minute video clip about the applicant.

The scholarship will be available for use at any four-year, U.S.-accredited college or university. Ten semifinalists will be selected by April 2016 and will then be required to submit additional documents, including an acceptance letter to a U.S.-accredited, four-year college or university.

Applications are available online at www.bankofguam.com, at all Bank of Guam branches, Customer Service Department in Hagatna Branch and the Communications Department. They have also been distributed to local and neighboring island high schools. ***(BOG)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Transfer station, Marpi landfill closed Tuesday

The Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill waste disposal facilities will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016, in honor, respect, and Mass of Christian burial for the late CNMI governor Eloy S. Inos. Regular schedule will return on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016. ***(DPW)***

Air Force to conduct training at FDM

ASAN, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 11-12 and 14 from 11:30am to 5pm. The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear of the area during the dates and times indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

UOG Theater fine arts students to compete in national competition

Robert Wang dressed as the wigmaker, left, fights on stage with Joey Datuin dressed as the woodcutter, right, during the UOG Theater production of Rashomon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

University of Guam senior fine arts majors Joey Datuin and Robert Wang have been selected to participate in the Irene Ryan Acting Competition during The Kennedy Center American College Theater 48th Annual Region VIII Festival next month in Hawaii.

The festival—which brings together students from universities in Utah, Central and Southern California, Guam, Arizona, Hawaii, and Southern Nevada—is touted as one of the largest college theater festivals in the nation.

A representative of the competition visited Guam to watch the UOG Theater perform Fay and Michael Kanin's *Rashomon*—a stage adaption of Akira Kurosawa's famous film of the same name—during the fall 2015 semester.

Based on Wang's interpretation of the wigmaker and Datuin's interpretation of the woodcutter, both Tritons were handpicked to fly to Hawaii to represent UOG during the festival held Feb. 11 to 14. ***(UoG)***

Century Tours, Inc.
is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) Inventory Assistant (Part-Time)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/facsimile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley.

(1) Inventory Assistant
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/facsimile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley.

(1) Customer Service Agent (Part-Time)
High school diploma, GED or equivalent. Two (02) months work experience in Travel or Tour operation or sales or service based work environment. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages.

(1) Customer Service Agent
High school diploma, GED or equivalent. Two (02) months work experience in Travel or Tour operation or sales or service based work environment. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages.

(7) Tour Sales Representative
High school diploma, GED or equivalent. A minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in a related field. Work experience with travel and tour operation is an advantage. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Russian, Korean, or Chinese languages.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_ctr@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than January 21, 2016. Applications for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

SUNSHINE CAFÉ 阳光咖啡

迅辣壹号 麻辣火锅 Hot No.1 Celebrity Sichuan hotpot

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NEW RESTAURANTS LOOKING FOR STAFF

Two new food and beverage outlets looking for friendly, dedicated and service-oriented staff to join our team. We are looking for:

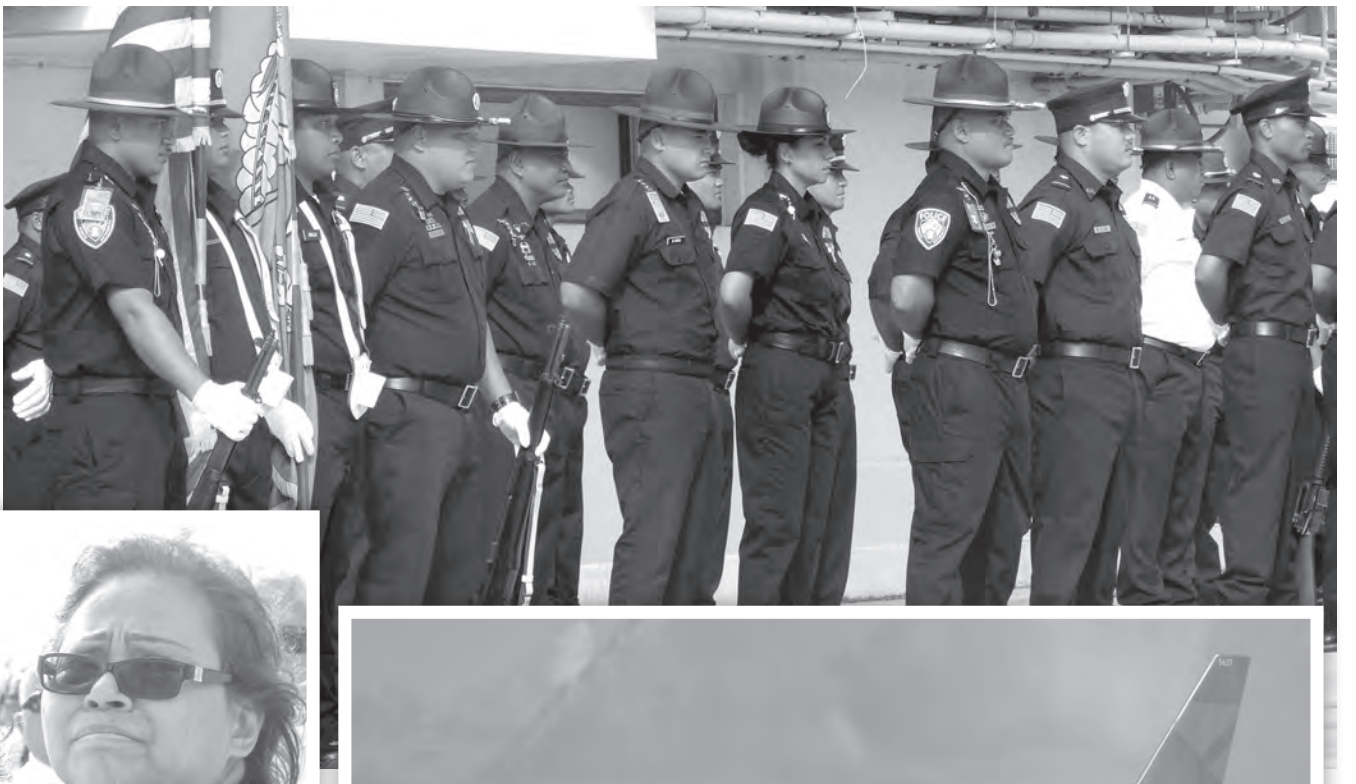
- **Restaurant Manager**
- **Kitchen Sous Chef**
- **Pastry Sous Chef**

- Floor Supervisors
- Waiters / Waitresses
- Cashiers
- Kitchen Supervisors
- Cooks / Pastry Cooks
- Stewards
- Part time artist to do wall art in one of our outlets

Previous experience is preferred, as is command of foreign languages, e.g. Chinese.

Interested applicants please send your resume and short introduction to sunshinejobs@icloud.com

Gov. Eloy Inos Comes Home



NORTHERN
Coalition
Domestic and
MARIANAS
Against
Sexual Violence

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL M

RUN
WITH
HART

SOETEN-KIYU PUBLIC LIBRARY

You will be missed
+Gov. Inos
(1949-2015)
...adios

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
JOETEN KIYU PUBLIC LIBRARY
Motherand
CNMI
Fatherand
Extends our prayers and
heartfelt sympathy.
Rest in Peace.
Governor Eloy S. Inos
September 28, 1949-December 29, 2015

THANK YOU GOVERNOR INOS for your
SERVICE and LEADERSHIP

FHP
You will Always
be in our hearts...
May your soul rest in peace.
ACM 653
taulanghut

You will Always
be in our hearts...
May your soul rest in peace.

ACM 808

MARKET
You will Always
be in our hearts...
May your soul rest in peace.

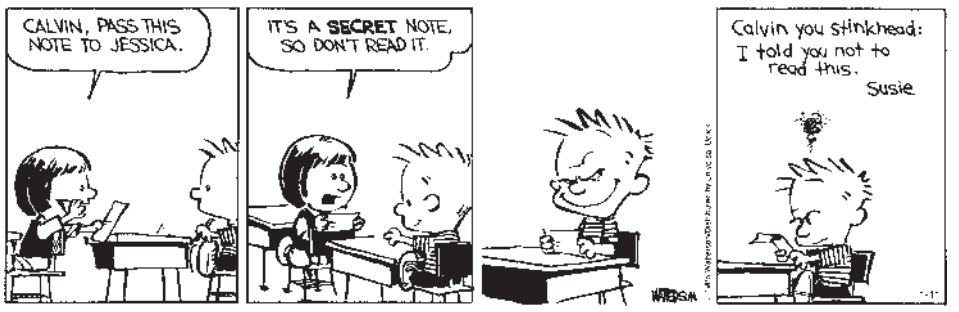
ACM 808
You will Always
be in our hearts...
May your soul rest in peace.

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

Pastimes

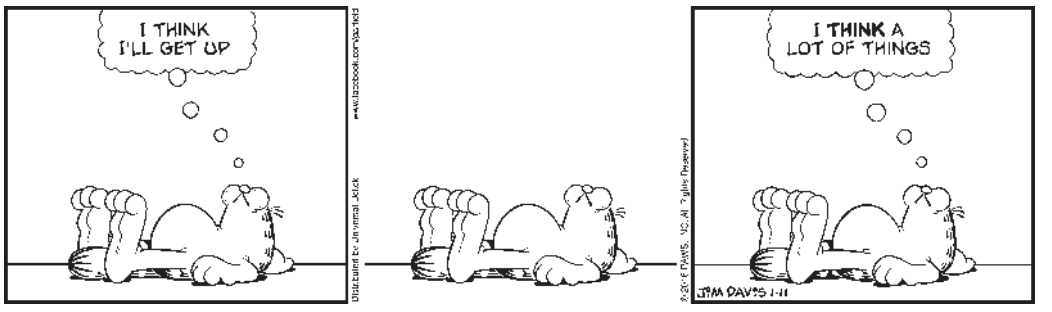
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OH, NO NO NO NO NO!
WHAT?
I HAVE A SCRATCHY THROAT. LIKE, A "GETTING SICK" SCRATCHY THROAT.
I NEED EMERGEN-C, AIRBORNE, ZICAM, SOUR GUMMY WORMS, ECHINACEA, AND GATORADE. STAT.
SOUR GUMMY WORMS?
I KNOW WHAT MY BODY NEEDS, LAURA!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I WONDER IF THERE'S LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS.
I WONDER IF SOMEWHERE ACROSS THE GALAXY THERE ARE TWO BEINGS STARING UP AT THE HEAVENS JUST LIKE US.
AND WONDERING WHAT'S ON TV.

CROSSWORD

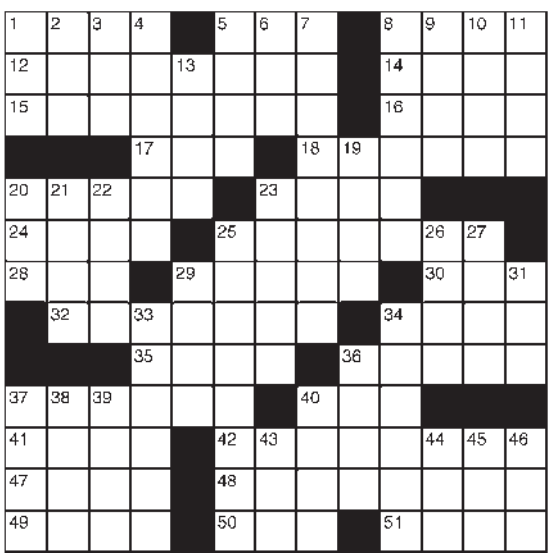
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Starring role
5 Chum
8 Datebook abbr.
12 Wide-angle view
14 Foot-long item?
15 Hints at
16 Filly's dad
17 Boom sticks, for short
18 Hidden, as a threat
20 Flip out
23 Cots and cribs
24 Barrel bottom bit
25 Amish transports
28 Capitol VIP
29 Orderly grouping
30 Bake sale gp.
32 Hammy actors or thugs
34 Blue-green
35 Meadows
36 "Baloney!"
37 Hale and hearty
40 Canal site
41 Egg cell
42 Like teddy bears
47 Shopping area
48 Cannon-ball Express driver
49 Wartime friend
50 "Rob —"
51 Mermaid feature

DOWN
1 Vinyl records
2 Vichy water
3 Director Lee
4 Soldier's ID
5 Time gone by
6 Invoice fig.
7 Betting city
8 Home of St. Francis
9 TV's Dr. McGraw
10 Skin opening
11 Ticked (off)
13 Rip apart
19 Anxious
20 Dept. store inventory
21 Utah city
22 Waiter's handout
23 Aaron and Raymond
25 Short rest
26 Duel tool
27 Remain
29 Many moons
31 Pale brew
33 In a morose way
34 Despot
36 Crèche trio
37 Capital of Italia
38 Cameo shape
39 Male bovine
40 Custard-like
43 One (Sp.)
44 "Don't — stranger"
45 Floral ring
46 Schubert's "The — -King"

Solution time: 26 mins.

Friday's answer 1 - 11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amanda Peet, 44; Mary J. Blige, 45; Kim Coles, 54; Naomi Judd, 70.

Happy Birthday: Invest in your ideas. Don't waste time on projects that you haven't been able to get off the ground. Venture into new territory and you will find a unique challenge that will motivate you to do things differently. Refuse to let past relationships weigh you down financially, emotionally or physically. Live in the present and look ahead to the future. Your numbers are 2, 9, 15, 23, 27, 32, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Getting fired up about reaching personal goals will help you bring about changes that will make a difference to your future. Don't get caught up in the past or in things you cannot alter. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Pick up information and skills. Communicate and put any issues or concerns behind you. An opportunity to begin a new project is apparent. Explore new possibilities and expand your outlook and your goals. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Use your powers of persuasion when dealing with partners or colleagues, and you will increase your chances of getting ahead. Make sure that you only offer to do what you know in your heart you can accomplish. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Do your best to bring about the changes you've been wanting to make at home or in your career. Being able to spend more time with your friends and family members should be your intent. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Practice what you preach. Share your true feelings and you will bring about change. Be a leader and make a point to finish what you start. Love and romance are highlighted, so put aside time for a passionate encounter. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Problems at home will be demanding. Take better care of your health, possessions and your assets. It's important not to let anyone jeopardize your chances of getting ahead. An investment you make toward your education will pay off. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let your disappointment show. If someone hasn't lived up to your expectations, move on. A change will do you good. Make an appointment at a spa, or just set aside some time to relax. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Do your research and show more interest in what others do. The information you pick up will come in handy when you want to make some changes to your lifestyle or begin some new pursuits. Don't let an emotional incident deter your progress. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Stay focused and refrain from taking on too much responsibility. It's important to bring about the changes that will improve your life. Too much of anything will lead to confusion. Choose to work hard and avoid unnecessary indulgences. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Expand your interests and you will make unexpected gains. Don't pay for someone else's mistakes. Avoid being bamboozled by someone trying to take advantage of you. Look out for yourself and protect your interests. Avoid dealing with institutions. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Make personal changes and try to spend time with someone you love to be around. Don't let your temper flare up, and try not to spend impulsively just to appease your emotions. Offer affection and understanding instead of frustration and anger. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Protect your physical well-being by following a proper diet and exercise routine. Problems with someone you love must not be allowed to fester. Honesty and compromise will help you find a solution. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, independent and pragmatic. You are proactive and goal-oriented. *Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5			3		9	
3	7	2				1	4	
	6				1		8	3
6		9						
			6	5	4			
						7		1
1	8		5				2	
	9	7				6	1	8
	4		9			3		

Difficulty Level ★ 1/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

9	1	8	5	6	3	7	4	2
6	5	3	2	4	7	9	1	8
4	7	2	9	1	8	5	6	3
5	3	6	4	9	2	1	8	7
1	9	4	8	7	6	3	2	5
2	8	7	1	3	5	6	9	4
8	6	1	3	5	4	2	7	9
3	2	9	7	8	1	4	5	6
7	4	5	6	2	9	8	3	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ANTARCTIC SUNSETS Solution: 9 letters

T	G	S	C	S	E	E	R	G	E	D	A	Y	S	B
H	N	S	O	R	B	I	T	M	O	R	A	N	G	E
G	I	E	N	T	H	G	I	L	I	W	T	S	A	L
I	N	N	C	S	E	T	T	I	N	G	E	E	E	O
N	N	K	O	I	Y	D	O	W	N	S	D	D	S	W
D	I	C	R	A	F	N	N	I	T	U	U	I	Y	I
I	G	A	D	S	O	I	D	U	T	T	T	G	A	N
M	E	L	I	S	G	N	N	I	I	U	I	I	W	D
A	B	B	A	H	E	N	T	G	A	E	T	R	Y	C
E	T	E	T	V	I	A	N	T	A	A	L	F	K	H
R	S	S	O	N	L	O	E	R	K	M	A	R	L	I
T	R	B	G	B	L	D	T	Ⓒ	S	S	E	N	I	L
S	A	S	O	U	T	H	Ⓞ	R	I	Z	O	N	M	L
K	T	F	I	N	A	Ⓛ	E	O	D	A	R	K	A	R
Y	S	I	X	A	Ⓓ	I	S	A	P	P	E	A	R	D

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 1/11

Above, Altitude, Axis, Beginning, Below, Blackness, Cold, Concordia, Dark, Days, Daytime, Degrees, Disappear, Disk, Down, Earth, Ending, Finale, Frigid, Horizon, Last, Latitude, Lines, Longitude, Magnificent, Midnight, Milky Way, Nights, Orange, Orbit, Season, Setting, Situated, Sky, South, Stars, Stream, Stunning, Twilight, Windchill

Last Thursday's Answer: Fraternity

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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EMPLOYMENT

1 General Manager (Accounting): $1,000-1,800/mo. 5 years of managerial experience required. Must have majored in accounting. 10 years of accounting experience required. Korean writing and speaking fluency required. Email resume to hps@hanmisaipan.com.

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1 Cook (Korean cuisine): $6.05/hr. At least 1 year of professional cooking experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to wing@hanmisaipan.com.

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(3) Fishermen, (1) Driver. Minimum salary. Send resume to SMJ Corporation. P.O. Box 503944 Saipan, MP 96950.

General Maintenance Worker. High school diploma or equivalent with at least 3 years' experience especially in general construction. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing, masonry, carpentry and other general maintenance work. Must be able to lift and move construction supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours including evenings, holidays and weekends. Send resume to GMA Corp at P.O. Box 503317, Saipan MP 96950 or email to noel96950@yahoo.com

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1-Webmaster. $12/hour, minimum 3 years experience. Must be able to manage websites with Korean and Chinese content. Email resume to usptvp@gmail.com before January 12, 2016. US PACIFIC TIMES CORPORATION, P.O. Box 505049, Saipan, MP 96950.

Sherman Consulting, LLC
P.O. Box 520800, San Jose Village, Tinian MP 96952 Tel. (670) 433-2664; Fax (670) 433-4329

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: Jan 11, 2016
Close Date: Jan 15, 2016

Position: (1) Bookkeeper
Rate: $ 7.50 Per Hour
Qualification: AA Degree or College Graduate (4) yrs experience

Link: http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/43-3031.00

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Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

Job Vacancy Announcement

(12) Carpenter - $6.05/hr.
(5) Plumber - $6.05/hr.
(5) Electrician - $6.05/hr.
(12) Mason - $6.05/hr.

Interested applicants must contact and submit resume to RPCF, INC.
P.O. Box 504549 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel #: 234-9127
Email: brian@pticom.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1 CASHIER

- Must be honest and hardworking.
- Must be responsible and trustworthy.
- At least 2 years experience.
- Can speak Chinese and Japanese language.

For interested applicant, please email your resume to: sunleadersaipan@gmail.com

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Vacancy Announcement

(1) Painter Artist – Atleast 2 yrs.experience. Good level of physical fitness, including the ability to lift, work at heights. Have other building works related skills.

(1) Sales and Marketing Coordinator – Must have atleast 2 years work related experience, hardworking and trustworthy. With valid driving license.

Submit Applications To:
Saipan Apparel Printing, LLC.
Tel. 235-1680

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant

Cook (3): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to provide required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Must be willing to work on flexible hours, shifts, evening, holiday and weekends. Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 6 months to a year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

SK COMMUNITY, INC.

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If interested, please call Niinuman at 670.989.7771

Vacancy Announcement

(1)Beautician Assistant/Aid - Atleast High School graduate. Must have a hair and cosmetology skills. Willing to work flexible time.

Submit Applications To:
Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp.
Tel. 235-7270

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) CAD Operator

- Required Bachelor's degree plus 1 year experience.
- Proficiency in AutoCAD 13, Google Sketchup 2013 and Microsoft Office.

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admin@n15architects.com

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or call 670-233-4348. Applications are being accepted Monday - Friday, 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. and on Saturday, 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., at Ironwood Community Center on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

Vacancy Announcement

(2) Maintenance - Atleast high school graduate . A valid driver's license. Ability to use efficiently various power and hand tools. Knows how to follow oral written instructions and can communicate efficiently and fluently in both witten and oral form.

(1) Auto Mechanic - Must have atleast 2 yrs. work related experience. Excellent diagnostic/ repair skills of vehicle systems. High self motivation.

(1) Househelper - Knowledge in cooking Chinese,Japanese, Thai, Cuisine is a must. Experienced in household chores like cleaning, ironing, gardening, paying bills, and baby sitting. With valid driver's license.

(1) Automotive Body Repairer - Atleast 5 yrs. working experience. Willing to work flexible time and dependable. Hardworking and trustworthy.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc. Tel. # (670)235-7011

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P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055
Tel.: (670) 236-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2016

Opening date: December 31, 2015 **Closing date: January 22, 2016**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

Position:
(1) Mechanic-II (ARFF)
(5) Ports Police Trainee (Saipan)
(1) AOA Controller-I (Saipan)
(1) Secretary-II (Rota)
(1) Electrician (Saipan)
(1) Procurement Technician (Saipan)
(1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Port of Saipan)
(1) Accountant-I (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office is no later than ***4:30 p.m., Friday, January 22, 2015.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For additional information, please contact the Ms. Addy C. Manahane, by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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3 – Mechanic

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For more information, please call (670) 285-0009

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Classified Ads

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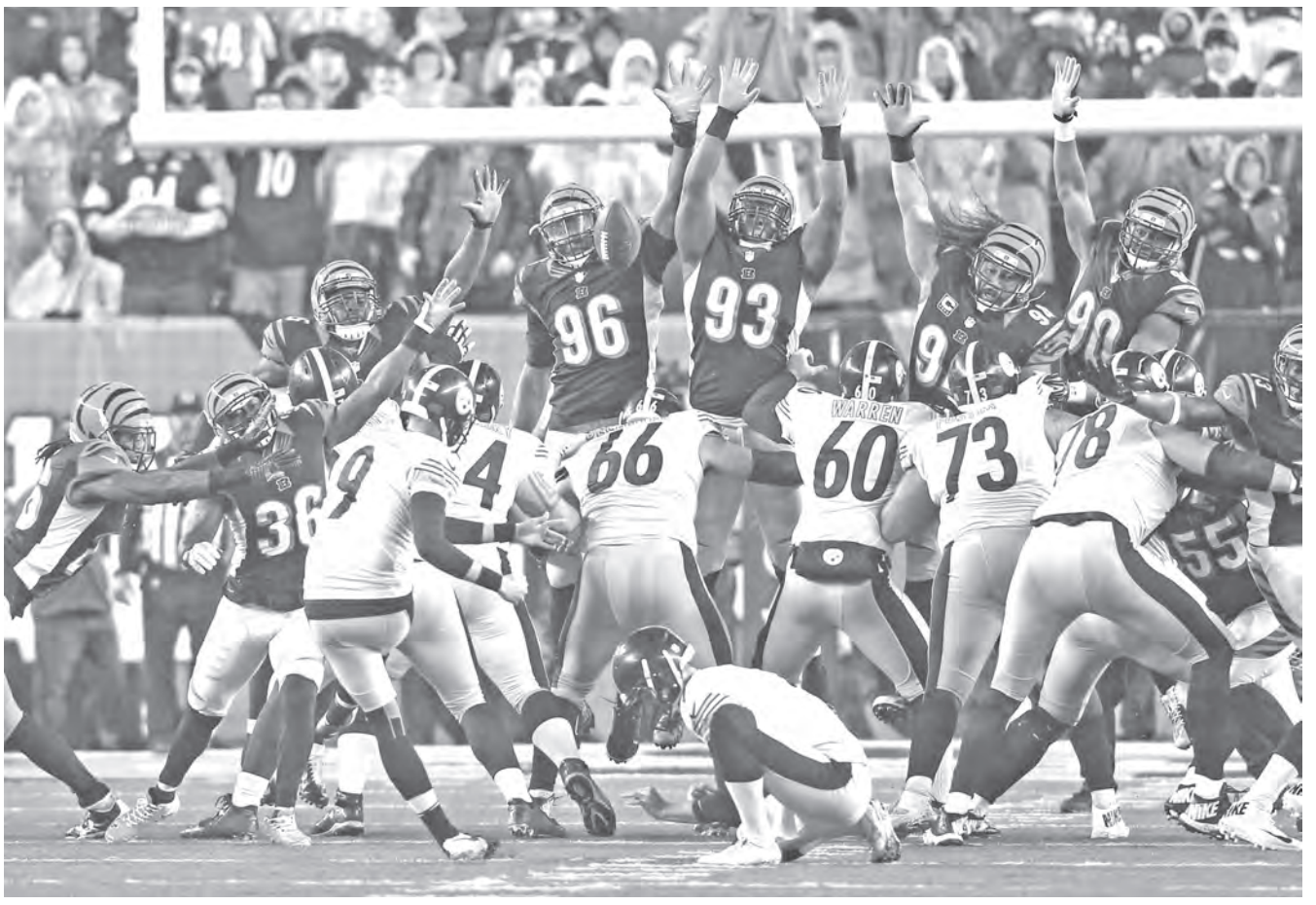
Steelers pull out improbable 18-16 win over Bengals



AP

Pittsburgh Steelers' Chris Boswell (9) kicks a 35-yard game inning field goal during the second half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016, in Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI (AP)—Ben Roethlisberger couldn't throw. Antonio Brown couldn't stand without help.

And in the end, it didn't matter. The Pittsburgh Steelers are heading to Denver after the Cincinnati Bengals did what they always seem to do this time of year: they imploded.

Spectacularly.

Chris Boswell kicked a 35-yard field goal with 14 seconds remaining as Pittsburgh somehow pulled out an 18-16 victory in an—really, just pick whatever synonym for "ugly" that works—AFC wild-card game Saturday night.

Pittsburgh (11-6) moved into field goal position thanks to consecutive 15-yard penalties on the Bengals, one on linebacker Vontaze Burfict and another on cornerback Adam Jones. Burfict dropped his shoulder and hit a defenseless Brown in the helmet as the All-Pro receiver came across the middle, and Jones lost his cool after getting into with Steelers assistant coach Joey Porter when Porter came onto the field as Brown was being tended to by trainers.

Boswell drilled his fourth field goal of the game on the next snap to give the Steelers their first playoff victory since the 2010 AFC championship.

"We won the game, that's all that matters," Roethlisberger said.

Pittsburgh bolted off the field without so much as shaking hands while the Bengals vented their frustration after easily the most painful of their eighth straight postseason losses. Jones took to Instagram calling out Porter, a post Jones later deleted.

Cincinnati might want to do the same after somehow losing despite rallying from a 15-point deficit to have the lead and the in Pittsburgh territory and the lead with 1:30 to go.

Then the Bengals turned into ... the Bengals.

Hill was stripped of the ball by Ryan Shazier while trying to run out the clock. The Steelers recovered at the Pittsburgh 9 and Roethlisberger and his aching right shoulder returned for a last-gasp drive. Unable to pass with any real authority, he still managed to get the Steelers near midfield with 22 seconds to go when he threw high to Brown in Cincinnati territory.

"It's hard to put into words," said Hill. "Words don't do anything at this point. It's on me. I take full blame for it."

He had plenty of help from two of his volatile teammates, both with a history of questionable decision-making.

Burfict, whose sack of Roethlisberger sent the quarterback to the locker room, lowered his shoulder as Brown landed. The volatile linebacker earned a personal foul. Jones compounded the problem when he lost his cool while jawing with Porter, easily putting Boswell within field goal range after Cincinnati's eighth - and final - flag of a ghastly night that ended with an unthinkable collapse.

"We destructed on ourselves," Bengals coach Marvin Lewis said.

Pretty much.

Roethlisberger finished 18 of 31 for 229 yards and a touchdown in rainy conditions. Jordan Todman and Fitzgerald Toussaint combined for 123 yards rushing filling in for injured DeAngelo Williams. Brown caught seven passes for 119 yards but was also diagnosed with a concussion.

Still, that production didn't look like it would be enough. AJ McCarron put together an improbable comeback after Martavis Bryant's somersaulting touchdown grab gave the Steelers a 15-0 lead heading into the final quarter.

Cincinnati (12-5) ripped off 16 straight points, the last six on a 25-yard strike from McCarron to A.J. Green that put the Bengals in front. They missed the 2-point conversion but had seized momentum completely, something that seemed near impossible after running back Gio Bernard was knocked unconscious by Shazier and fumbled late in the third quarter, a hit that seemed to ratchet up a game that was already contentious all the way to the edge ... and maybe beyond.

When Burfict intercepted Landry Jones on Pittsburgh's possession after Green's score, Cincinnati and Lewis appeared ready to end the sixth-longest postseason drought in NFL history.

And just as suddenly as it appeared, the Bengals' resolve vanished.

Hill had the ball tucked in his left arm when Shazier somehow clawed it out as Cincinnati tried to bleed the clock and the Steelers recovered at the Pittsburgh 9 with 1:23 left.

Just enough time for Roethlisberger—with a hefty assist from the Bengals—to send the Steelers to Denver and a rematch with the Broncos, whom Pittsburgh beat 34-27 on Dec. 20 with Brock Osweiler at quarterback instead of Peyton Manning.

"There's no quit in this team," Roethlisberger said.

Another long winter looms in Cincinnati.

The Bengals controlled the AFC North, easily winning their fourth division title under Lewis even with QB Andy Dalton breaking his right thumb during a loss to Pittsburgh on Dec. 13. Yet all a dozen wins did was set them up for a third showdown with their longtime tormentor in an increasingly acidic rivalry.

Pittsburgh survived a bumpy four months that included significant injuries to Roethlisberger, running back Le'Veon Bell, center Maurkice Pouncey and left tackle Kelvin Beachum. The Steelers needed a win in Cleveland and a Buffalo upset of the Jets on the final Sunday to make the playoffs for a second straight year.

A trip to Cincinnati hardly seemed a problem: The Steelers have lost in Paul Brown Stadium only three times since it opened in 2000, a sea of Terrible Towels turning the Bengals' home into Heinz Field West. It served as the launching point of a Super Bowl run in 2005.

Chiefs 30, Texans 0

In Houston, after 22 years without a playoff victory, the Kansas City Chiefs were determined not to give up the lead this time.

The Chiefs had enough points to win after jumping ahead 7-0 in the first 11 seconds, and they used relentless pressure, five turnovers and a ball-control offense to dominate the Houston Texans 30-0 in the wild-card round of the NFL playoffs on Saturday.

They were especially cognizant of not letting up after blowing a 28-point lead in a loss to the Colts in their last playoff appearance in 2013.

"What happened to us a couple years ago, everybody remembers that even the coaches included, so our entire mentality is about finishing," quarterback Alex Smith said. "The mentality doesn't change."

They finished off the Texans early, and they had the hometown fans booing by the second quarter. Texans quarterback Brian Hoyer had the worst game of his career with four interceptions and a fumble.

Houston's defense kept the Texans close in the first half, but J.J. Watt left with an injury in the third quarter, Jadeveon Clowney never even put on his jersey and the Chiefs were able to close the game out in the second half.

The Chiefs extended their NFL-best winning streak to 11 games and will face New England on Saturday.

"We wanted to come in and dominate," Chiefs safety Eric Berry said. "Right now we are locked in and ready for next week.

On the opening kickoff, Knile Davis got three good blocks around the 10-yard line and then simply outran the rest of the defenders for the 106-yard kickoff return score, the second-longest kickoff return TD in postseason history.

"It was a huge deal, man. It set the tempo," Davis said. "It quieted everybody, kind of made everybody relax."

The defense took over after that, forcing Hoyer into a fumble and a three of his career-high four interceptions before halftime to help the Chiefs (12-5) take a 13-0 lead.

"I made some bad decisions that really hurt the team," Hoyer said.

Houston coach Bill O'Brien said he never considered benching Hoyer, but backup Brandon Weeden told a different story, saying he was warming up late in the game.

"We had talked about me going in there with Brian," Weeden said. "Brian wanted to finish the thing out. I don't blame him."

Smith threw a touchdown pass late in the third and Spencer Ware added a 5-yard TD run on the first play of the fourth quarter to make it 27-0.

Travis Kelce, who also had more than 100 yards receiving in the first meeting with the Texans this year, had another big day, finishing with eight receptions for 128 yards.

The victory breaks a streak of eight straight playoff losses by the Chiefs and is their first postseason win since beating the Oilers in Houston on Jan. 16, 1994. That team was led by Joe Montana and Marcus Allen.

"Was it 1994? I didn't feel it, but I know how important it is, too," coach Andy Reid said. "You get to the playoffs, and first round, if things don't go well, that rips your heart out."

Hoyer was 15 of 34 for 136 yards as Houston (9-8) lost a home playoff game for the first time. Hoyer's performance cast more doubt on his future as the starter.

Watt missed most of the second half after injuring his groin in the third quarter. Last year's Defensive Player of the Year and the NFL sack leader didn't have a sack as Houston's defense played well but couldn't hold off an offense that got so many extra chances because of turnovers.

Watt returned a few plays after he was initially hurt, but soon left the game again when he was pushed to the ground by the head by tackle Eric Fisher.

"That's just a dirty play," Watt said. "But the injury was before that moment."

Fisher said he didn't know the play was over. Kansas City receiver Jeremy Maclin strained his right knee on the same play and didn't return.

The Chiefs capped that drive when Smith found rookie Chris Conley in the back of the end zone for 9-yard touchdown that extended the lead to 20-0.

Houston defensive end Jared Crick got a personal foul late in the third quarter when he hit Fisher after a play, in an apparent retaliation for the Watt hit.

Down 7-0, the Texans were driving when Hoyer was sacked by Allen Bailey and fumbled. Dontari Poe recovered it at the Kansas City 42 and the Chiefs extended their lead to 10-0 on a 49-yard field goal.

Trailing 13-0, a 49-yard run by Alfred Blue got Houston to the Kansas City 13. The Texans got a first down at the 2 and Watt and defensive tackle Vince Wilfork came in on offense, with Watt lined up as the wildcat quarterback and Wilfork blocking. Watt took the direct snap but had nowhere to go and lost a yard on his first career carry. Hoyer was intercepted on the next play by Josh Mauga.

Hoyer had also struggled against the Chiefs in the season opener, being benched in the fourth quarter of a 27-20 loss.

Paul has 25 points, Clippers beat Hornets, 97-83

AP
Charlotte Hornets guard Kemba Walker, left, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Clippers continue to win games without their leading scorer. And whenever Blake Griffin gets rid of those street clothes and returns to the lineup, they'll only get better.

Chris Paul had 25 points and seven assists and the Clippers extended their winning streak to eight with a 97-83 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Saturday.

Los Angeles is 7-0 since Griffin went down with a partially torn tendon in his left quad. Overall, they are 19-8 when the five-time All-Star has been sidelined due to injury or suspension—including a 9-6 mark last season.

"I think it's because we all had to step up by committee," Paul said. "We're moving the ball and putting a huge emphasis on defense. The only way we can really score without the big fella is we defend and get out in transition."

Center DeAndre Jordan, making a push for his first career All-Star selection, had 19 rebounds. It was the 11th straight game in double digits for the franchise's career rebounding leader. He led the NBA in rebounding the previous two seasons.

J.J. Redick added 17 points for the Clippers. The winning streak is their fourth of eight or more games in the past four seasons. They had an 11-game run in 2013-14, a nine-game stretch last season, and won a franchise-record 17 straight in 2012-13—going 16-0 in December.

Jeremy Lin made his sixth start of the season and scored 26 points for the Hornets, who have lost a season-worst six in a row and seven straight on the road. Shooting guard Nicolas Batum missed his fourth straight game because of a sprained toe on his right foot.

"At this point, we are just trying to get a win," Lin said. "But I would say today that we played harder and had more communication on the defensive end than we have had in previous games. If we keep playing as hard as we did today, good things will happen in the near future."

Jeremy Lamb had 18 points on 8-for-14 shooting and grabbed a career-high 13 rebounds.

Kemba Walker, the Hornets' leading scorer this season, had 11 points on 4-for-16 shooting after averaging 26.6 over his previous seven games.

"He missed some shots, but I thought C.P. and Austin were really effective with their size and getting into him," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "But I thought our bigs were good with Walker today, too. They were very alert to him and they were up to the pick-and-rolls a little bit more."

Paul's 19-footer capped a 13-1 run that turned a three-point Clippers deficit into a 58-49 lead with 6:02 left in the third quarter. They led by six entering the fourth and made it 86-75 on Redick's 19-footer from the left of the key. The Hornets got no closer than nine after that.

"We don't have the residual effect of bad play. We just get out of it," Rivers said. "I didn't have to say much at halftime. You could just see that guys were upset, and they were talking about it when I walked in. So what else do I need to say. They're policing themselves, and that's important."

The Hornets' losing streak began with a 122-117 home loss to the Clippers, who have won 10 of the last 11 meetings. They are 7-12 since signing coach Steve Clifford to a three-year contract extension Dec. 2.

Warriors 128, Kings 116

In Sacramento, Calif., Stephen Curry made eight 3-pointers and scored 38 points, Draymond Green added 25 and Golden State defeated Sacramento for its sixth consecutive victory.

The Warriors (35-2) broke loose for 36 points in the third quarter and built a 12-point lead. Curry had 14 points in the fourth to hold off the Kings.

Golden State swept the four-game season series and has beaten Sacramento 12 straight times.

Green hit five 3s and grabbed nine rebounds. The Warriors shot 19 of 37 on 3-pointers, hitting 12 in the opening half—the most the Kings have allowed in a half all season.

DeMarcus Cousins had 21 of his 33 points in the first half and added 10 rebounds for the Kings. Rudy Gay scored 23.

Hawks 120, Bulls 105

In Atlanta, Al Horford scored a season-high 33 points and had 10 rebounds, Paul Millsap added 18 points and Atlanta beat Chicago.

Jimmy Butler scored 14 of his 27 points in the third quarter for Chicago, and Nikola Mirotic had 24 points. The Bulls had won six straight.

Atlanta has won two straight after dropping three of four.

Raptors 108, 76ers 95

In Philadelphia, Kyle Lowry scored 10 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter and DeMar DeRozan added 19 to lead Toronto over Philadelphia.

Jonas Valanciunas had 17 points for the Atlantic Division leaders, who will go for their fourth straight win when they wrap up a six-game road trip against Orlando on Thursday in London.

Ish Smith scored a career-high 28 points and rookie Jahlil Okafor had 19 for Philadelphia, which dropped to 4-35. The 76ers have lost 11 straight games to Toronto.

Pistons 103, Nets 89

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Andre Drummond had 23 points and 11 rebounds, and Detroit pulled away at the beginning of the fourth quarter to beat Brooklyn for their third straight victory.

Reggie Jackson had 23 points and eight assists for Detroit, and Ersan Ilyasova added 19 points and 13 rebounds. The Pistons played without forward Marcus Morris, who sat out with left knee tendinitis.

Brook Lopez had 19 points and seven rebounds for the Nets, who have lost four straight.

Wizards 105, Magic 99

In Orlando, Fla., John Wall had 24 points and 10 assists to help Washington defeat Orlando for the 12th straight time.

The victory ended a three-game losing streak for the Wizards, who got double-figure scoring from all five starters and reserve Gary Neal. Otto Porter, Jared Dudley and Neal each scored 16 points, Marcin Gortat had 12 points and 10 rebounds, and Garrett Temple added 11 points.

The Magic were led by Nikola Vucevic, who had 23 points and nine rebounds. Orlando has lost five of six.

Jazz 98, Heat 83

In Salt Lake City, Gordon Hayward scored a season-high 34 points and Utah beat Miami to break a three-game losing streak.

Hayward came out of the locker room after a passive first half and scored 18 points in the third quarter, including nine in a row to give the Jazz a 68-60 lead.

The Heat got as close as four in the fourth, but a late 6-0 run pushed the lead back to 88-78.

Trey Burke scored 11 points off the bench and Raul Neto matched a career high with 13 for the Jazz.

Chris Bosh led the Heat with 24 points. Dwyane Wade was held to eight on 3-for-17 shooting.

Atlanta's NBA team embraces rap shows after racial remarks

ATLANTA (AP)—The Atlanta Hawks are collaborating with big-name hip-hop artists like T.I., Ludacris and Big Boi in what the team calls an effort to make amends after it was revealed two officials made racially charged remarks in separate incidents.

The artists were brought in by the NBA franchise to perform during halftime and after Hawks' home games months since former general manager Danny Ferry's insensitive comment about Sudanese-born Luol Deng came to light in September 2014. Soon after, an internal investigation revealed that former co-owner Bruce Levenson complained in a 2012 email that blacks kept potential white fans away from games. Both came on the heels of Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling making racist remarks that were a public relations nightmare for the NBA.

Both have severed ties with the Hawks, who have since adopted the slogan "True to Atlanta" and apologized in an open letter to the city. T.I. was enlisted to appear in a commercial with Hawks CEO Steve Koonin to urge fans to attend the home opener, where he performed.

"We wanted to fix our relationship with the city," said Koonin, an Atlanta native who is white. "Southern hip-hop is born here. It's part of our DNA. We just believe the convergence of sports and entertainment, NBA basketball and hip-hop are a natural blend to continue to grow our business."

Many Hawks fans have granted their forgiveness. Since the 2014 home opener, the Hawks have had 39 sellouts and an average attendance of 17,246 in the regular season including playoffs, according to the team. The Hawks' home arena seats about 18,000.

"I don't go to games to watch the owners," said season ticket holder Randy Kessler, who is white. "I attend games to see the world's best athletes compete. It's an added benefit to see entertainers like T.I. perform. It was a great move for the Hawks."

T.I. had performed at games before the racial incidents and had an established relationship with franchise officials. But the performances have become more frequent since Ferry and Levenson's remarks were made public. He and Koonin both say there's a mutual benefit: The performances help sell tickets and help the rappers push new projects and merchandise.

The rapper said the idea for music artists to perform at Hawks games originated several years ago when Hannah Kang from his Grand Hustle Records label pitched the concept to the team. In the past two seasons, 2 Chainz, Jeezy, CeeLo Green, Rich Homie Quan, Big Grams and Silento have performed at games. Most of the performers are Atlanta residents.

The artists aren't paid, Koonin said, though some donations have been made to charitable organizations in their name in the past, including $25,000 to CeeLo's foundation.

"I knew the executive staff prior to all the hoopla," T.I. said. "The person at the nucleus of the conflict, I never had any much interaction with them anyway. It wasn't very difficult for me to make a decision. I'm going to rock with the people who I know, because I can speak to their integrity. I can judge their character."

However, Jesse Mills, who runs an Atlanta-based branding agency, cautioned that consumers may see the Hawks' efforts as a marketing ploy. He said blending hip-hop performances with games was a smart strategic move to help rebuild initial trust in the black fan base, but he warned those rap shows would ultimately alienate whites and offend some blacks.

"It seems to me like they're saying 'We need more black people, get more rappers," Mills said. "That's the message I got as an educated, discerning African-American that doesn't just listen exclusively to rap/hip-hop music in my playlist. There's a contingency of others in Atlanta that I represent."

New Hall of Famers Griffey and Piazza talk about dads

NEW YORK (AP)—On their first full day as Hall of Famers, Ken Griffey Jr. and Mike Piazza talked about their dads.

Los Angeles drafted Piazza at the recommendation of then-manager Tommy Lasorda, a friend of Piazza's father, Vince. Mike credited his dad for getting him to the majors, for forcing him to get into a batting cage every day.

"My dad made a joke last night," Piazza said Thursday. "'Man, I could have been arrested. It could have been child abuse.' ... He was probably closer to going over the top than most parents today."

Griffey acknowledged Ken Griffey Sr., a three-time All-Star who won a pair of World Series titles with Cincinnati. Playing together with the Mariners, they hit back-to-back home runs at the California Angels against Kirk McCaskill on Sept. 14, 1990.

"Being 20, when I shook his hand, he was like, 'You know what we did?'" Griffey Jr. recalled. "I was like, Yeah, we went back-to-back. Like every other 20-year-old, it was like no big deal. He was like, 'Yeah, we just went back-to-back. Nobody's ever done that. Now let's do it again.' He understood the history of the game, being 38, 39, where I was just like, I'm ready to play every day.

"As I got older, I finally understood, you know, what I've accomplished and what I had a potential to be. Now it's paid off."

Junior also praised his mom, Birdie, who was at home while her husband played and drove Junior to his youth games.

"My dad would say something. She had a way of saying it much differently than my dad would say it. You know how dads can be sometimes," Junior reminisced. "So she knew my swing. She knew if I was fielding right. ... She watched enough baseball to be able to tell what I was doing wrong. She even told him what he was doing wrong. I thought I'd throw that in, Dad. Sorry."

AP

Former Seattle Mariners Ken Griffey Jr., left, and former New York Mets Mike Piazza pose for a photograph after a press conference announcing their election to baseball's Hall of Fame, Thursday, Jan. 7, 2016, in New York. Both men will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this summer.

Sitting in the audience at the New York Athletic Club for Thursday's news conference, Ken Griffey Sr. had a quick response.

"You have no idea," he said.

Last year's inductions featured a contrast in heights: 6-foot-10 Randy Johnson and 5-foot-11 Pedro Martinez.

This year's will highlight a difference in paths: Griffey is the first No. 1 overall pick in the Hall and Piazza, taken on the 62nd round with the 1,390th pick, is the lowest elected to Cooperstown.

"I was able to sneak into this game, kind of limp in, if you will," Piazza said. "Through a lot of hard work and determination, some luck, some timing, was able to build a pretty good career."

When they started off their professional careers, Junior and Piazza carried different burdens.

Piazza began at Salem, Oregon, in the Northwest League, earning $850 a month. He thought of times he'd run to the backstop to retrieve pitches he failed to catch.

"Pitchers that came from good colleges, they're like: 'Who is this guy catching? He's terrible. We need to get another guy back there,'" he said. "Fortunately I was able to get better and work harder and, at least, as I said, improve to where I was able to be a pretty good major league catcher."

Griffey received a $160,000 signing bonus and started with a $700 monthly salary at Bellingham, Washington, also in the Northwest League.

"Wow, I just remember those bus rides. You touched it all with having roommates and things like that, people you don't know," he said, thinking about the attitude of his teammates, managers and coaches. "You're No.1 pick. So what? You still got to go out there and play like everybody else. We're not going to treat you any different."

That team was managed by Rick Sweet, who made it to the major leagues for just three seasons.

"He actually fined me for missing curfew," Griffey said. "Only reason I missed curfew is I'm allergic to fish, I went to eat after a seven-hour bus ride. He doesn't care. 'You missed curfew. Here is a hundred.' When I got to Cincinnati, I asked for my money back. He said he didn't have it."

TAN

From Page 28

three semis duel tonight, while McDonald's hopes to remain in contention with a win in Game 2.

The top-ranked Tan Holdings set up the easy win and moved closer to a finals appearance in the nine-team league after starting to dominate the series opener in the second quarter. Tan Holdings more than doubled up McDonald's in the pivotal period, 27-13, to turn a 25-26 deficit to a promising 52-39 halftime advantage.

R.J. Nonato sparked the breakaway, scoring 8 of his 16 points in the second canto. He was amply supported by his teammates, as six other Tan Holdings players hit the board in that quarter. McDonald's, which took the shaky 1-point lead at the end of the first frame after Joseph Achas' triple, failed to keep up with Tan Holdings on offense, as the former was held to five field goals in the second.

Only brothers Michael and Joseph Achas converted more than one basket for McDonald's in the second quarter and the team continued to bleed for points in the third, tallying 10 markers. The third period letdown saw only Michael scoring more than 2 points for McDonald's with his two field goals and a pair of free throws. Gil Gapor and McClain Achas knocked in the two other baskets for McDonald's.

Tan Holdings also had some problems on its offense in the third, but Matt Duenas' 8 points off the team's 14 were enough to push the lead to 17, 66-49 going into the final canto.

Tan Holdings went on to increase the advantage to as high as 22 points, 74-52, before allowing McDonald's to pick up garbage points in the remaining minutes of Game 1.

Meanwhile, Joeten and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. also played their semis series opener last Friday and results of the match will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday edition.

Tan Holdings 83 – Duenas 19, Nonato 16, Rivera 11, Quizon 11, Esdrelon 10, Matsutaro 6, Macoto 4.

McDonald's 69 – J. Achas 18, Gapor 16, Mi. Achas 17, Mc. Achas 10, Gaspar 6.

Scoring by quarters: 25-26, 52-39, 66-49, 83-69.

TITLES

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hind win after getting a couple of defensive stops from Juan Camacho and making crucial free throws in the homestretch.

The first charity came from Chris Esteves' split and gave GMJ/IKKI its biggest lead in the match, 77-71, with still 1:39 left in the game. Esteves was fouled and went to the 15-foot line after GMJ/IKKI took possession as Camacho wrestled the ball away from the hands of Bart Demapan in Blue Haus' frontcourt.

A quick 2 from Brendon Talania's baseline jumper kept Blue Haus in the match, 73-77, and it had a chance to move closer after Camacho missed a hurried triple with the 24-second shot clock almost down. Blue Haus' Angelo Fernando got the loose ball after Camacho's attempt and sprinted to their frontcourt for the fastbreak play, however the latter chased the former and challenged the layup. Fernando eventually overshot his mark, while Camacho collared the rebound and passed it to Esteves, who was again fouled on his way to the basket.

Esteves this time hit the pair of charities for their 79-73 advantage and GMJ/IKKI went on to knock in two more free throws off J.R. Barrios and Ignacio Borja's splits, while Blue Haus missed two triples, typifying the squad's monumental collapse.

Blue Haus earlier threatened to pull away in the final after Elmer Esdrelon canned a step-back triple to cap their 12-1 run in the first two minutes of the second canto. GMJ/IKKI pressed the panic button after that and began working its back into the game behind Elgene Mangali and Esteves.

Mangali had 6 points in the second canto, while Esteves recorded 7, including GMJ/IKKI's last 5 points, which the former scored all from the foul line to end the quarter with his team down by only 5, 30-35.

Blue Haus, which opened a double-digit spread after moving the ball well and getting a lot of points from their backdoor plays in the first half, was stuck to 30 markers for awhile before saving 5 more points to keep the driver's seat at the break. It eventually lost the upper hand in the opening minutes of the third, 39-37, as GMJ/IKKI continued to fight back. The game remained close since then with the opposing teams having a lot lead changes and deadlocks.

The last standoff was at the 4:23 mark (65-all) before GMJ/IKKI launched a short 11-6 run capped by Mangali's putback off Esteves' airball shot from beyond the arc for their 76-71 advantage.

While GMJ/IKKI had to rally past Blue Haus, it was a different tale for Islander, which withstood MJD's comeback bid to take the east championship.

Islander built an early double-figure lead in the first quarter, 27-16, but squandered it as MJD moved within 2 by halftime, 35-37. MJD recovered behind the 10 markers of Freddie Pelisamen in the second period, 8 of them were made in succession.

Pelisamen kept going early in the third with his triple putting MJD in the lead for the first time, 42-39 since the 3-2 count. However, Dixon Kwon answered with his own shot from downtown to tie the match.

With Pelisamen hurting the Islander on offense, the eventual division champion switched from zone to man-to-man defense and the move paid off as the MJD gunner was neutralized and Islander regained the lead, 59-52, with one quarter to go.

Islander protected the driver's seat in the final period and was poised to close out the match early after taking a 78-72 advantage, down to the last 20. 9 seconds in the game. However, MJD made a last-minute push as Paul Bautista drilled a turnaround jumper from the left baseline and drew a foul on Kwon. Bautista completed the and-1 play to cut the deficit to 3, 75-78, and MJD gave up a preemptive foul on Kelvin Fitial in the ensuing play to stop the clock, that read 14.1 seconds.

Fitial hit the first charity and missed the second one, but he picked up the offensive rebound, as he knew the ball would land to the left side of the shaded lane. He was fouled anew and missed both free throws, but Alex Lauron was there for another important rebound and Islander players did a good job moving away from MJD defenders to avoid getting fouled as they melted the clock.

First Game

Islander 79 – Kwon 18, Factor 16, Fitial 11, Lauron 11, Babauta 7, Diaz 7, Manibusan 3, Lee 2, Malonzo 2, Tenorio 2.

MJD 75 – Pelisamen 33, Lizama 15, De Guzman 8, Peredo 8, Estolas 5, Bautista 3, Gapor 3.

Scoring by quarters: 27-16, 37-35, 59-52

Second Game

GMJ/IKKI 81 – Mangali 22, Esteves 18, Camacho 10, Borja 9, Barrios 6, Villacrusis 6, Ferrer 5, Oyala 2, Litulumar 2, Cortez 1.

Blue Haus 75 – Talania 16, Fernando 12, Esdrelon 11, Demapan 10, De Dios 10, Manalo 8, Velasco 6, Berline 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-18, 30-35, 57-58, 81-75.

NMSA

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on the island with Saipan's hosting of last year's Asia Pacific Middle East Junior, Senior, and Big League Regional Tournament a crowd drawer every night.

The gold medal match between the CNMI and Guam in the 2006 Micronesian Games also drew a huge crowd.

Rogolifoi again repeated that maintaining, improving and renovating the sports facilities would also benefit the CNMI.

"If we have nice facilities then we can bid to host other events. And with Japan hosting the 2020 [Summer] Olympics we could advertise that Saipan is a viable place to rain especially for those countries who want to acclimatize with the weather," added Rogolifoi. "But again, it all boils down to money."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	24	15	.615	—
Boston	19	17	.528	3½
New York	18	20	.474	5½
Brooklyn	10	27	.270	13
Philadelphia	4	35	.103	20

Southeast Division

Atlanta	23	15	.605	—
Miami	22	15	.595	½
Orlando	20	18	.526	3
Charlotte	17	19	.472	5
Washington	16	19	.457	5½

Central Division

Cleveland	25	9	.735	—
Chicago	22	13	.629	3½
Indiana	21	15	.583	5
Detroit	21	16	.568	5½
Milwaukee	15	23	.395	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	32	6	.842	—
Dallas	21	16	.568	10½
Memphis	20	18	.526	12
Houston	18	19	.486	13½
New Orleans	11	24	.314	19½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City		26	11	.703
—				
Utah	16	20	.444	9½
Portland	15	24	.385	12
Denver	13	24	.351	13
Minnesota	12	25	.324	14

Pacific Division

Golden State	35	2	.946	—
L.A. Clippers	24	13	.649	11
Sacramento	15	22	.405	20
Phoenix	13	26	.333	23
L.A. Lakers	8	30	.211	27½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tudela, Lee are December top student athletes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Vincent Tudela and Carol Lee clinched the December Tan Siu Lin Foundation-Northern Marianas Sports Association Male and Female Student Athletes of the Month honors for their various feats earned in tennis.

Tudela, who turned 15 last Thursday, won one of the three events he had entered in last month's 7th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic where he ruled the men's 4.0 singles following a 6-1, 6-2 decision over Steven Goodwin.

Tudela could have won a second singles event in the boys' U16 age group but lost to eventual champion Michael Ren in the round robin format.

He then teamed up with Goodwin in the men's doubles but lost to the pair of Don L. Castillo and Ronie Lacbayo, 6-4, 3-6,10-6, in the finals.

Lee, on the other hand, played in the first week of the annual tournament where she ruled the U18 co-ed division.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Carol Lee, left, and Vincent Tudela were named NMSA Student Athlete of the Month winners for the month of December during the NMSA monthly meeting last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

She left a few days after her final match in the Tan Holdings tournament to join the Pacific GSDF (Grand Slam Development Fund) Touring Team.

Lee, denied a chance of going deeper in the main draw, bounced back from an opening set loss to clinch the 2015 14/U Australian Championships with a 4-6, 6-3, 10-2 decision over Queensland's Megan Smith in the consolation contest.

Smith was the sixth seed in the main draw and was ranked 200th among Australian junior players.

Earlier, Lee was forced to retire in her first round match against No. 2 Madison Bishop of South Australia. She dropped the opening set, 6-4, but bounced back in the second with the similar score to force a deciding frame.

Lee was up 5-3, and serving for the match when play was stopped after she could no longer continue because of a strain on her knee.

She injured her left upper knee when she went for a return of Bishop's shot in one of their long rallies during the match.

Over 60 join NMISF open meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation — Fina — Proud Member of FINA

Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Saipan were well represented in the 2015-2016 NMISF Open Swim Meet as the two groups combined for more than 60 participants in last Saturday's event at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Sixty-one swimmers from the two clubs saw action in majority of the 15 events lined up by Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation. Results of the weekend meet were unavailable at press time, but initial reports to their coaches saw SSC and Tsunami Saipan swimmers posting personal best times.

Swimmers were required to talk to their respective coaches after they raced to discuss their recent swim and compare their seed times to their current results.

SSC members were the first to plunge into the pool as seven of its members participated in Event 1—the 1,500m freestyle race. Kento Akimaru had the fastest seed time in the event at 20:19.44, followed by Christian Villacrusis (20:31.21), Lennosuke Suzuki (21:07.89), and Taiga Sato (21:16.39). Caleb Wang, Jin Ju Thompson, and Salofi Welch competed in their first 1,500m event.

Right after the longest race in the meet, NMISF had the 50m butterfly with swimmers divided into four heats. Tsunami Saipan's Shoko Litulumar had the best seed time on Heat 1 with her 1:16.26, while SSC's Jinie Thompson (48.70 seconds seed time), Tsunami Saipan's Mark Maestro (38.10 seconds), and Takumi Sugie (30.24 seconds) led heats 2, 3, and 4.

In the third event of the day—the 100m breaststroke, only 11 swimmers joined and they were spread into two heats. Kento Akimaru had the fastest seed times in the event with his 1:18.03.

The 50m freestyle drew the most participants among the 15 events in last weekend's meet with 57 swimmers divided into 10 heats. Sugie owned the best seed time in the pool with his 27.56 seconds.

The 50m backstroke, on the other hand, lured 36 swimmers that were put into six heats, while other individual races featured in the Tsunami Saipan-sponsored and NMISF-sanctioned meet were the 50m breaststroke, 100m backstroke, 100m and 200m freestyle, and 200m individual medley.

There were also two relay races—the mixed 400m freestyle and 200m medley.

It was an all-SSC battle in the mixed 400m freestyle relay with Wataru Kadokura teaming up with Robert DeCourteny, Andrei Kaith Lynn Chavez, and Dino Sato racing against the quartet of Coume Kaga, Mark Jainier Chavez, Ashley De Courteny, and Akira Kadokura.

In the 200m medley relay, teams were divided into two heats with SSC's Kento Akimaru, Villacrusis, Welch, and Wang on the first heat and were joined by Tsunami Saipan's Ayumi Obligacion, Risa Sekiguchi, Shoko Litulumar, and Maria Batallones and Rentaro Suzuki, Aasish Dangol, Sean Gil, and Jaden Castro. Heat 2, on the other hand, featured six teams with four of them coming from Tsunami Saipan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's Jinie Thompson, left, and two other swimmers are at the starting block for the 200m freestyle race in last Saturday's NMISF Open Swim Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Rugby group seeks NMSA accreditation

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Iakopo

Stanley Iakopo is trying to get the rugby association that he is trying to revive earn accreditation and become a member of the Northern Marianas Sports Association.

Iakopo, who went back to Saipan with his family last month, attended last Thursday's NMSA meeting where he asked what would be the steps needed to be done to get things going.

"I played in a lot of sports here since 1995 like rugby, track and field, football, bodybuilding, and mixed martial arts. I left in 2008 for deployment," said Iakopo, who is an Air Force Reserve Command recruiter under the 944th Fighter Wing with a rank of master sergeant.

"But now I'm back here and I want to re-organize the rugby association. I want rugby to be sanctioned and be part of CNMI sports again," added Iakopo, who played in high-level leagues in the East Coast as part of the Air Force team while on active duty.

Sports federations that apply for NMSA membership need to get organized and elect a board that would govern their group and get their association chartered.

NMSA officials, led by president Mike White, said that they would help Iakopo in the process of being chartered and the rugby group become a member.

"I just want to share my knowledge and resources to the community. That's why I'm asking the help and support of NMSA for this. Guam has already took off and hopefully the CNMI could follow shortly," he added.

Guam, as of Jan. 4, is ranked 72nd in the world and eighth in Asia since joining Asia Rugby, the region's governing body, in 1998. Guam has also won the Asia Rugby Championship Division III East title in Jakarta, Indonesia last June.

Steelers pull out improbable 18-16 win over Bengals

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Tudela, Lee are December top student athletes

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GMJ/IKKI, Islander win division titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

GMJ/IKKI Wholesale rallied past Blue Haus to clinch the west division title, while Islander weathered MJD Enterprise's second-quarter storm to take the east championship in the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

Islander played in the first title match of the night and eked out a 79-75 win versus MJD, while GMJ/IKKI clawed its way back from a double-digit deficit to pull off an 81-75 victory against Blue Haus in the second finals game.

GMJ/IKKI, which was once down by 15 early in the second quarter, 15-30, patiently overhauled Blue Haus' lead and completed the from-be-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
GMJ/IKKI Wholesale's Ignacio Borja, left, goes up for a layup against Blue Haus' Angelo Fernando during the third quarter of their west division title match in the San Antonio caging last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Islander's Mel Manibusan, right, pulls up for a short jumper against MJD Enterprises' Jorge De Guzman during the fourth quarter of their east division title match in the San Antonio caging last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

Tan Holdings moves closer to finals stint

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tan Holdings romped past McDonald's, 83-69, in Game 1 of their semis series in the 2nd JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Friday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Tan Holdings will be gunning for a sweep in their best-of-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tan Holdings' Jarret Matsutaro shoots over two McDonald's players during the fourth quarter of Game 1 of their semis series in the JP World caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

NMSA can apply for new grant

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association is eligible to apply for another grant that would help them with their renovation and other planned improvements of Saipan's sports facilities.

NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi said they would immediately apply after learning this from Northern Marianas Housing Corp. officials.

Rogolifoi and NMSA vice president Kurt Barnes met with NMHC deputy corporate director Zenie P. Mafnas and NMHC planner and environmental officer Jacob Muna last week to discuss the resurfacing of the Oleai track oval.

"They told us that [NMSA] is eligible to apply to receive another grant. We're hoping to submit another application by March or before the December deadline," said Rogolifoi.

"NMSA is looking to have new grandstands built at the baseball field and we estimate that the cost would be between $1.2 million and $1.5 million. But the project will depend on the money that will be given to us. We're okay to work on how much they give us."

They are now looking for someone who could help them draw the architectural perspective of the planned grandstand.

Rogolifoi said they plan to put concession stands and a storage room under the new grandstand. "We could rent them to people who want to sell food every time there are games or other events. The money could be additional income for NMSA to help us with our daily operations. And at the same time we could keep some of our equipment under it."

Baseball is also one of the most watched sporting events

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JON PEREZ
The Northern Marianas Sports Association is planning to build a new grandstand at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.